



THE TIMES

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40p



Christmas cheer: Rachel Anderson, a forest officer, checking trees at the Alice Holt plantation, near Farnham, Surrey, in preparation for the rush of buyers expected this weekend

Inflation rate falls to 9.7% as peak is passed

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A FALL in the inflation rate to 9.7 per cent, the biggest drop for more than four years, provided some cheer for the government after a week of gloomy economic news.

Although the big drop from 10.9 per cent in October was largely due to one-time changes in mortgage rates, there were also significant improvements in underlying inflation. These suggested that government had a good chance of meeting its forecast of 5.5 per cent inflation by late next year.

However, the relief was tempered by concern in both the City and Westminster that the Chancellor might miss an ideal opportunity to cut interest rates and mitigate the deepening recession. Norman Lamont made an unusually outspoken commitment on

INSIDE

Levitt chief granted bail

Roger Levitt, the founder and chairman of the Levitt Group financial services concern, was remanded on bail of £500,000 at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday.

He was charged on two counts of theft totalling £665,000. His court appearance coincided with his being declared a bankrupt. His assets were put in the control of the official receiver..... Page 3

Farm pact near

The European Community and the United States are close to resolving a series of damaging farm disputes in a "peace package". The move towards an accord is the most positive step since the row over farm subsidies brought Gatt talks to a standstill..... Page 26

Bush setback

President Bush's choice for chief of the Republican Party, William Bennett, has become the latest victim of White House infighting..... Page 11

Europe's tunnel

The Channel tunnel operator, Eurotunnel, appears to be controlled by continental investors after its £66 million rights issue..... Page 34

Test for Bonds

The unbeaten home record of Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, faces a stern examination when Middlesbrough visit..... Page 29

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FROM ANNE MCELVOY
IN BERLIN

EAST Germany may have disappeared from the map as a mere footnote in world history but the true symbol of the short-lived country lives on, oblivious to unification and immune to the wave of Western takeovers.

State television's most popular children's puppet series *Sandmannchen* – the Sandman – has been rescued from the scrapheap by popular demand as eastern Germany's Channel One ceases broadcasting today. The puppet, which has appeared every evening for 31 years to scatter sand into the eyes of the nation's wakeful tinies, has outlived Walter Ulbricht, under whose rule he started, Erich Honecker, and finally the East German state itself.

When it became clear that the main channel was to close, leaving

only a regional programme, hundreds of thousands of children launched a "Save the Sandman" campaign. Those petitioners too small to wield a pen for their rights applied handprints to the appeal to make clear their resistance to the sacrificing of the Sandman.

The programme, which has the highest viewing figures in the east, will now be shown on the federal ARD network and be repeated in the eastern German regions. "He is simply a part of GDR identity for parents and children here, one of the things they remember about life pre-unification with pleasure, not resentment," said studio director Eberhard Neumann. "No one would dare go away with him. Even the new director-general has a Sandman on his desk."

The show has succeeded where much of the country's media failed in making the transition from socialism to

capitalism without looking outdated, and is now successfully gathering young viewers in the west.

Herr Albrecht described the Sandman as having "the benefit of a clean record". Not even the puppet escaped the odd ideological reprise, however. His curiousity about the adult world and fictitious visits to different parts of the GDR were supposed to establish him as the "new type of man", in keeping with the rules of socialist realism.

In one episode, he paid a visit to the amiable soldiers of the Volksarmee and rode in a tank with them in the service of peace. On National Day, he obediently waved an East German flag, and went to the moon – with the cosmonauts, of course. A western Sandman, launched as an ideological corrective in the 1950s, failed miserably to match the eastern version and was scrapped.

Hero of a puppet regime crosses to the West

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incident, which comes three weeks after the Antares fishing boat was sunk by the Royal Navy submarine *Trenchant* in the Firth of Forth with the loss of four lives.

In spite of a statement by Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, that it was unlikely that the snagging was caused by the submarine, the Americans said that they were keeping an open mind while the investigation took place. No one was injured in the

Royal Navy and fishing vessels in the Firth of Clyde. The code, which comes into force on Monday, will require the navy to forewarn fishermen of the presence of submarines beneath the surface.

Lieutenant Steve Lowry, of the US navy, said that extensive checks would be made on the submarine by its commander. The results would be known next week.

Report, photograph, page 2



On his bike: Sandman is out to conquer the west

Fog brings renewed misery on roads

By GEOFF KING

JOHN Major yesterday signalled a new era of British co-operation in Europe. Clearly determined to avoid a two-tier Community and to end British isolation, he told EC leaders that they must go forward together. No one wanted confrontation. "We are wholeheartedly engaged with you all in the great enterprise of building, shaping and developing Europe."

But privately, he urged other Conservative leaders, including Helmut Kohl of Germany and Giulio Andreotti of Italy, not to rush the pace of integration when he had an election looming. He effectively appealed for time to square party and public opinion before being expected to back up his more moderate tones on Europe with practical policy changes.

His formal message was that a change of prime minister did not mean any change of heart on a single currency or a federal Europe. Nor could it be expected to put his name to anything which would not be agreed by the British parliament. In interviews he said: "I was a member of Mrs Thatcher's cabinet for some time: the policies then remain cabinet policies."

But he added that he was of a generation that held a "very positive" view of the Community. He would be enthusiastic in building and shaping Europe, seeking as he did so liberalism in economics, democracy in politics, evolution on constitutional questions and co-operation on foreign policy. This, he believed, was compatible with what others in Europe sought.

His tone was a marked departure from the confrontational rhetoric of Mrs Thatcher and other leaders took it

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Food aid, page 8
Woman scored, page 8
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Letters, page 13

TODAY

Just a wee bit miffed



Billy Connolly gets worked up by the Hollywood money obsession and has a word or two for those who accuse him of selling out

SATURDAY REVIEW

Trade in that sock option

Choosing a gift that matches the person need not be harder than buying yet another pair of socks

WEEKEND LIVING

The Bligh syndrome

The two Oxford University captains (of rugby and rowing), who went through mutiny to victory, talk about their experiences

SPORT

Money and the young

What our younger readers spend and how they can save

PRIME TIME

NEXT WEEK

Hangers flog dead horse

'Whence comes the extraordinary and apparently implacable desire among members of Parliament (mostly Conservative) to have people strangled...?' Bernard Levin on capital punishment, on Monday

A very good school – official

The head of a Dorset school rated one of the best by HM inspectors talks to David Tyler about raising standards

EDUCATION, MONDAY



This will be Tom's first Christmas. £25 will help to ensure it's not his last.

Christmas is a dangerous time for thousands of children. But you can help them with a donation of £25. That more than covers the cost of a first visit by a NSPCC Child Protection Officer to a child at risk. Please help this Christmas by sending as much as you can afford.

I WANT TO HELP A CHILD IN NEED RIGHT NOW.

I enclose my Cheque/Postal Order for:

£75 £50 £25 £

I would like to donate by Access/Visa, expiry date

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Send your donation to: Christopher Brown: Ref 911645

NSPCC FREE POST, London EC1B 1QQ.

Or call free on 0800 777600.

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

NSPCC

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Domesday page 12

Levitt Group head bailed on £660,000 theft allegations

By ANGELA MACKAY

ROGER Levitt, founder and chairman of the Levitt Group financial services business was remanded yesterday on bail of £500,000 at Bow Street magistrates' court after being charged on two counts of theft totalling £665,000.

His court appearance coincided with his being declared a bankrupt and his personal assets being placed in the control of the official receiver. Mr Levitt made a personal bankruptcy application on Thursday, two days

after his company, valued at £150 million, was placed in the hands of liquidators.

Mr Levitt was remanded yesterday until February 8. He was charged late on Thursday with stealing £400,000 from a client between October 1987 and December 13, 1990, and £265,000 from another client between June 1986 and December 13, 1990.

During a short hearing, Sir David Hopkin, chief stipendiary magistrate, granted bail on condition that Mr Levitt should not communicate in any way with certain people who are to be interviewed by police; that he must live at his address in Highgate, north London; and that his passport must be held by his solicitors, Clifford Chance. Mr Levitt's father and a family friend stood bail of £250,000 each.

Separate investigations into Levitt Group are being conducted by police, the trade and industry department and the Serious Fraud Office.

KPMG Peat Marwick Mc-

Lintock, the liquidators, confirmed that Levitt Group had about 5,000 investors, several thousand less than earlier estimates, and that some 200 of these clients were discretionary clients whose funds were handled directly by the Levitt Group on the clients' behalf.

Tim Hayward, one of the liquidators, said it looked unlikely that realisations of as-

sets (excluding clients' funds) would exceed £1 million.

Initially, Levitt Group appeared to have assets worth £10 million against a £30 million deficiency in the balance sheet. However, the latest statement implies that the deficiency will be closer to £40 million. The liquidators have dismissed 210 staff to cut costs.

Over the past year, Mr Levitt has made loans of just over £20 million to his company. Fimbra, the regulatory body, was unsatisfied that the group could continue trading if it was only Mr Levitt's funds that were supporting it.

When Fimbra asked Mr Levitt to capitalise the loans, he refused, and this triggered an administration order and later the liquidation.

At one stage, Mr Levitt, a businessman with many celebrity clients, had a personal fortune estimated at more than £80 million. He is believed to have submitted a list of his assets and liabilities to the High Court in his bankruptcy application.

Mr Levitt owns about 75 per cent of the company. Another 20 per cent is owned by Legal & General, Chase Manhattan, General Accident and Commercial Union. These institutions bought their 4.9 per cent stakes just three months ago from Mr Levitt personally.



Roger Levitt, chairman of the Levitt Group, leaving Bow Street magistrates' court

Hospitals refuse to admit prisoner

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HOLDING a mentally disordered man in prison because doctors at National Health Service secure psychiatric hospitals refused to admit him was a hopeless situation, a judge said yesterday.

Judge Nina Lowry said at the Central Criminal Court that Terence Goodhew, aged 33, who had admitted attacking 15 women with acid, should be held in a secure hospital. The court had, however, been unable to find an institution which would take him. "It is a hopeless situation, dreadful," she said.

The judge's comments came on the day that the Prisons Inspectorate criticised the health service for not doing more to reduce the numbers of mentally disordered people in jail. The inspectorate says that such inmates are often locked up for more than 20 hours a day in dirty, poorly lit cells, with not enough access to trained staff.

Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said: "It seems an absolute tragedy that here is a man who is plainly ill and the state is quite unable to cope with the situation."

John Burrow, for the defence, said that one solution would be to seek an interim order for Goodhew to be assessed at St Andrew's hospital, Northampton, a private secure unit. He said that there was disagreement about what was wrong with Goodhew. One doctor had diagnosed him as being a psychopath, while another has concluded that he was suffering from a lesser impairment.

Judge Lowry remanded Goodhew in custody so that defence lawyers could make enquiries to see whether he could be assessed at St Andrew's.

The Special Hospitals Service Authority said yesterday that Goodhew had been refused admission because doctors felt that he would not respond to treatment and that he did not need to be detained in such secure conditions. Courts did not have the power to insist that secure hospitals accepted people.

The mental health charity Mind called on the health service to create special units for psychosexual offenders. "Many enter the prison system and receive no treatment or help and return to society still with severe problems," the charity said.

• Prisoners urgently need to be provided with more work, education and leisure facilities, Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister of state, said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme yesterday.

• A prisoner serving life for manslaughter has been found dead with his throat cut at Parkhurst jail on the Isle of Wight. He is believed to have committed suicide.

A GREEK travel company director said that it felt as if the world had collapsed on him when he discovered that the woman he had had a holiday romance with was Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper.

In an interview with a newspaper reporter, George Papoutsis said that he was devastated when he learnt that Mrs Sutcliffe's husband, Peter Sutcliffe, was "a real sicko" who had murdered 13 women and tried to murder seven more, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

The reporter's record of the interview was read out in court on the tenth day of the libel action brought by Mrs Sutcliffe against the *News of the World*. Mrs Sutcliffe is seeking damages over an article alleging that she had an affair with Mr Papoutsis while on holiday in Greece.

Mervyn Kinlay, a former reporter for the *News of the World*, was shown a shorthand note of a four-hour interview she had with Mr Papoutsis at a London hotel in December 1988. A transcript of the notes quoted Mr Papoutsis as saying that he

had really liked Mrs Sutcliffe. He found her interesting, attractive and "the real intellectual type". He said that "with Sonia, the physical was holding hands", adding that she had power over him. "She was in control. She could manipulate me. I was really impressed with her."

Miss Kinlay told Geoffrey Shaw, for Mrs Sutcliffe, that although the words "real sicko" did not appear in her notes, Mr Papoutsis spoke some colloquial English and had referred to Peter Sutcliffe as "a murdering bastard".

The transcript of Mr Papoutsis's interview continued: "I felt it was all sinister. I thought she was very mysterious and now I understand why. The whole experience has been really nightmarish."

Mr Papoutsis had seen photographs of Peter Sutcliffe while visiting Mrs Sutcliffe in Bradford. He had asked: "Who's this? He must be an Italian." She had said: "Yes, Leonardo da Vinci with a thin beard." He had asked: "Is this your first lover?" She had replied that he was her husband and that they were separated. He had remarked

that the man looked very much like him. The transcript quoted Mr Papoutsis as saying that Mrs Sutcliffe had then joked: "Yes you do look alike. That's why I fancied you."

Mr Papoutsis said that he felt used. "Everything collapsed for me. I felt sick. It gave me the creeps. Maybe she was using me as a substitute for her husband."

Miss Kinlay, questioned about words that appeared in her article for the *News of the World*, agreed with Mr Shaw that the words "sizzling", "sexy" and "uninformed" had been inserted by a sub-editor. She said: "That is just typical *News of the World* language."

She agreed that other words in the report were words that she had put in even though Mr Papoutsis had not said them, but she insisted that she had written the report in good faith and still believed it to be true.

Miss Kinlay told the court that when she saw George Papoutsis she was immediately struck by his resemblance to Peter Sutcliffe. "He was just a dead ringer for him. I think he really did look like him."

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Boxer to sue over bruised-face advert

By JOHN YOUNG

TONY Sibson the boxer is to take legal action through his manager, Frank Warren, over an advertisement for Audi car that depicts his bruised and battered appearance after his fight against the American Marvin Hagler.

The advertisement, which has now been withdrawn, states: "In our eyes it's better to avoid a hit than take one." It adds: "Tony Sibson, Leicester's own fighting gipsy, prided himself on his ability to 'take' a punch."

In a letter to *The Times* on Thursday, Mr Sibson said the advertisement had caused distress to his whole family. It appeared without his permission and without previous warning.

"While a person in the public eye cannot escape publicity, it is dreadful that an ordinary individual (which is what I now am) should find an unpleasant photograph of himself displayed all over the national press," he said. "The advertisement implies that my only talent lay in an ability to endure punishment."

Mr Sibson has attained the



Tony Sibson as he appeared in the advertisement for Audi cars

public eye, although they were advised to do so. So long as sports personalities were not shown to be endorsing a product or portrayed in an insensitive, unfair or distasteful way, the authority took a "fairly robust" view.

With legal action impending, it could not comment on Mr Sibson's case, but it would normally take action over advertisements which caused personal distress.

It had recently endorsed a complaint by Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, about an advertisement for Revlon for an anti-perspirant, which displayed his photograph and was captioned "For when you're really sweating." The authority described it as "highly distasteful" at a time when Mr Scargill was involved in an enquiry over missing union funds.

A spokesman for Audi's advertising agency, Bertie Bogle Hegarty, said that the advertisement had been legally checked before it was published. Public figures sometimes became indignant when they appeared in advertisements without their permission, but he claimed that it was not against the law.

The Advertising Standards Authority said yesterday that its code of practice did not require advertisers to seek permission of people who were in the

Lawyers query principle that judges' time is key to listing

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A JOINT offensive on the principle dominating the listing of cases in the courts — that judges must not be kept waiting — is to be launched by the Law Society and the Bar.

The rare joint initiative comes in response to comments by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, in October over the high incidence of aborted or "cracked" trials and the consequent waste of public money.

Lord Mackay told the pro-

fession that trials aborted by a last-minute change of plea in court from not guilty to guilty wasted public money. Although they could not be avoided altogether, lawyers could do much more to reduce cracked trials, Lord Mackay said. He urged lawyers to change their working practices and to give earlier consideration to the issues involved in a case.

However, the profession, while accepting its responsibility over aborted trials, is launching a counter-attack on the practices of court-listing officers.

Peter Cresswell, QC, the chairman of the Bar, said: "Sometimes there has been a change of counsel when a trial is aborted. But very often the problem has been caused by listing, and this is why we need to improve the listing system."

Walter Merricks, the assistant secretary-general of the Law Society, said: "Listing officers try to maximise the number of sitting hours of their judges, to the exclusion of every other consideration."

There was concern, Mr Merricks said, among lawyers over what they saw as the aggressive approach of some listing officers which put them under pressure to take a slot in the court timetable when they might not be ready, and when the defendant would not have counsel of his choice.

Further, he said, there was concern that defendants facing delays sit around court waiting for their case to come on under pressure to plead guilty.

"People are almost forced into a guilty plea if they turn up on a certain day and are then told the case won't come on until the afternoon, and then they are told it won't be heard that day, and they face the prospect of going away and having to come back on another day. They may think it's more than it's worth," he said.

The profession's two branches are to form a working party that will gather evidence from the circuits, local law societies and barristers' clerks on listing practices.

Clients and their wish for a particular lawyer should be put first, rather than judges' time, Mr Merricks said. "There is an old maxim among listing officers that says you are entitled to counsel of your choice but not necessarily your first choice," he said.

The system discriminated against people on legal aid, because privately funded defendants would always be given a fixed date and allowed to have counsel of their choice.

An aggressive approach by listing officers had been justified a few years ago, when delays before the crown courts were unacceptable long, Mr Merricks said.



Passing out: the Princess of Wales, representing the Queen, meeting some of the 690 officer cadets at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst yesterday. Among the cadets were 20 from Gulf countries who, after being commissioned, will be going straight to their regiments there

Pensions for judiciary may change

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS which could boost recruitment of younger judges to the circuit bench by reforming the pension arrangements of the judiciary have been made by the Lord Chancellor's department.

One of the main obstacles to attracting younger judges is that they must have served a minimum of 15 years full-time before becoming eligible for the full retirement pension at 65. A judge appointed before the age of 30 must thus serve longer before being able to draw the full pension, amounting to half the last year's salary.

Although judges now being appointed to the circuit bench are younger than those of 20 years ago, there are still relatively few in their 40s. Earlier this year statistics compiled in the Lord Chancellor's department showed that there were 24 circuit judges of 70 years or more; 178 between 60 and 69; 172 between 50 and 59; and only 51 between 40 and 49.

Judge Tilting, at 45, is one of the youngest judges on the circuit bench. Appointed this year, he is an Old Etonian described by his clerk as the "very image of a modern judge; hardworking, down to earth, nothing like the old-school type". However, a number of other new judges this year were over 50.

Department officials have been working on how to tackle the issue. They have made proposals to remove the minimum-service obstacle as part of a full-scale reform of judges' pension arrangements, sent privately to a number of judges for consultation.

The paper is also expected to rationalise the different pensions arrangements applying to the circuit and High Court bench and within the jurisdictions of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A High Court judge can retire at 70 on a full pension after serving at least 15 years, while a circuit judge can retire at 65 after serving 15 years. Circuit judges must retire at 72 and High Court judges at 75.

The reform proposals are believed to address a second concern: the disadvantage judges face over pension arrangements when they are promoted from the circuit to High Court bench. They now have the choice of counting their High Court years towards their total years as a circuit judge and then drawing a circuit judge's pension, or starting again and notching up 15 years on the High Court bench to draw the higher pension of a High Court judge.

The consultation paper is believed to suggest options for a transitional period for rationalising pension arrangements. One possibility is to bring in a common qualifying period of 20 years, which would remove the disincentive to appointing younger judges.

Story-teller's role revived to keep rural culture alive

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE ancient role of official story-teller is to be revived to help to preserve the culture and heritage of one of the most attractive areas of rural England.

More than 90 applications have been received for the £10,000-a-year, part-time post in a section of the north Pennines designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty and bounded by the towns of Alston, Allendale and Stanhope. The job has been created under a project funded by local councils, arts organisations, the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission.

The successful applicant will collect and record stories from the area and encourage an interest in story-telling among local groups and schoolchildren. He or she will re-tell the stories and poems in remote villages and hamlets, in the hope of luring audiences from their television screens.

Applications closed earlier this week and the interviews are to take place in the new year, with the successful storyteller beginning work in April. The post will last for a year.

Breeding controls urged after antelope 'mad cow' death

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE British Veterinary Association urged the government yesterday to discourage farmers from breeding from the offspring of cattle affected by the "mad cow" disease after confirmation that an infant antelope born to an infected mother has died from the brain disorder at London Zoo.

The association, which was disappointed by the government's recent refusal to accept the recommendation of a Commons select committee on agriculture that it should act to deter such breeding, said that its members were now advising farmers not to breed from infected animals. "That is the sensible approach even though we accept that antelopes are not the same as cattle and that maternal transmission of the disease would not have any implications for human health."

The agriculture ministry said, however, that it had no plans to change its policy, and David Tyrell, chairman of the scientific committee advising the government on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the cattle version of the disease, said that he saw no reason to amend his earlier recommendation against a ban on breeding from offspring of infected dams.

The 19-month-old greater kudu antelope was put down on November 13 after displaying

nervous symptoms similar to those which killed her mother in August. Examination of brain tissue has now confirmed the presence in both cases of a spongiform encephalopathy.

The mother, like four other antelopes which have died from spongiform encephalopathies in British zoos since 1986, was exposed to feed containing bonemeal from the offal of scrapie-infected sheep, which is believed to have caused the outbreak of BSE in cattle. However, her offspring was born nine months after such feed was banned and the only likely explanation for her death seems to be that she was infected by her mother.

If maternal transmission can occur in antelope, there is concern that it might occur in cattle also. Both species belong to the bovidae family, along with sheep and goats. The assumption has been that cattle which have eaten infected feed are "dead-end hosts" for the disease. However, if they can pass BSE on, eradication of the disease could be much harder.

So far, sheep are the only species where spongiform encephalopathy, popularly called scrapie in sheep, is known to be transmitted from mother to offspring, probably via infection of the placenta. The disease can be transmitted to mink and, in laboratory con-

ditions, to mice but not by maternal transmission.

A group of 312 cattle born to BSE-affected mothers is being monitored at the agriculture ministry's experimental husbandry farm at Boxworth, in Cambridgeshire. None has so far developed BSE, which scientists consider encouraging. The oldest animal is now 2½ years old, whereas the youngest recorded case of feed-related BSE occurred at 22 months.

Dr Tyrell said it did not worry him that a [end]-chewing ruminant such as a kudu might appear to behave like a sheep, whereas another ruminant such as a cow did not. "We cannot lump all ruminants together and assume they are all going to behave exactly the same way," he said. "It would not surprise me if we did get the occasional case of dam-to-offspring transmission in cows. All the evidence we have, and it gets stronger month by month, is that if it does occur, it does not occur very often, and in that sense we are safer and safer with our present policy."

If it were to turn out that there was a high frequency of maternal transmission, then there might be a case for considering a policy of slaughtering the offspring of BSE-affected cows. But it is beginning to look as if there cannot be a high transmission rate."

Unions ask Major to halt Sunday trading

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

UNION leaders representing more than 350,000 shopworkers asked the prime minister last night to prevent big stores opening illegally tomorrow and on the next Sunday before Christmas.

In a move bitterly opposed by the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) some large retailers have decided to risk fines by opening on Sundays to increase their profits and offer customers a better service. The union claims they are deliberately breaking the law in the face of a House of Lords judgment, expected next month, which will determine whether they can continue trading with the risk of being prosecuted again.

B&Q considers the law on Sunday trading, which it believes to be a grey area, is contrary to European practice and amounts to a ban on fair cross-border trading. Confronted by a letter of apparently equivocal legal opinion, some chain stores were yesterday guarded as to whether they would ask their staff to turn up on Sunday. The Woolworth stores group said yesterday that it had yet to decide what to do.

Marks & Spencer said that while its stores in Scotland, where the law is different, would be open on Sundays, the company had no intention of breaking the law in England and Wales.

Garfield Davies, Usdaw's general secretary, said that extra opening hours would increase pressure on staff without contributing to additional company profits.

The only result, as far as extra business is concerned, is that those shops who open illegally on Sundays will steal trade from their law-abiding competitors who remain closed," he said.

"There is no question of Sunday trading creating more jobs, as either shopworkers' hours are switched or casual labour is taken on for a few more hours. No permanent jobs will be created and very few existing staff will even get paid any more money."

Prince causes stir in the forests

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Forestry Commission yesterday stood by its assertion that forest trees were being made a scapegoat over acid pollution, despite a suggestion by the Prince of Wales that insufficient attention had been paid to the role of conifer plantations in increasing acidity of rivers and lakes.

Earlier this year the commission said that forest trees had been made a scapegoat for a problem caused mainly by acid rain and air pollution. That had led to forestry projects being abandoned after protests from water authorities.

In a speech last Wednesday, however, the prince appeared to contradict the commission by calling for more research into the apparent capacity of conifer plantations in upland areas to trap acid rain and eject it into rivers and streams. He said many upland

areas had been deprived of trout, salmon and sea trout.

He thought insufficient attention was given to "the potential for this sort of environmental damage when large grants are handed out for planting or replanting in inappropriate areas".

A commission official said yesterday that forest trees had been made a scapegoat for a problem caused mainly by acid rain and air pollution. That had led to forestry projects being abandoned after protests from water authorities.

The official said the commission's guidelines said that conifers should not be planted within five metres of rivers or streams and that little planting took place in such areas. The environment department said yesterday that it

was studying a variety of ways to fulfill the prince's hopes.

One process would harness old and newly identified micro-organisms to break down waste into a natural gas that can be turned into electricity and sold into the national grid.

Irresistible fall of the weekly

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CONFRONTED with the relentless proliferation of colour magazines, Saturday supplements and leisure sections, it is easy to see how the appetite of the average newspaper reader for the weekly political-cum-literary periodicals has become jaded.

</p

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Cheney puts case for force as sanctions take time to bite

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RICHARD Cheney, the American defence secretary, told congressmen yesterday that there was "no guarantee at all" that sanctions would force Iraq to disgorge Kuwait and make his strongest case to date for swift military action if Iraq had not withdrawn by the January 15 deadline.

His statements came amid signs that an angry President Bush was preparing to retract his offer of direct talks with Iraq if Baghdad refused his agreement to dates acceptable to America.

Mr Cheney, appearing before the House armed services committee, said: "I hear a lot of talk about 'Let's let sanctions work. Why don't we wait a year or two and see if in fact sanctions won't force him to get out?' They might; I can't say they won't, but nobody can persuade me either that there is a high probability of that." The UN trade embargo represented "the most impressive set of economic sanctions

the world has ever seen" and were having a "significant impact", he acknowledged, but "there's absolutely no evidence whatsoever that Saddam Hussein is prepared to withdraw".

President Saddam had the ability to direct resources to where they were most needed. Iraq was able to produce enough food to support itself. Over time the sanctions would hurt his air power, but probably not his ground forces, and meanwhile the stand-off was severely affecting the economies of neighbouring Arab states and the new democracies of East Europe.

Just three days before the planned visit to Washington of Tariq Aziz, Iraq's foreign minister, the Iraqi and American governments had still failed by early yesterday to agree a date for James Baker, the Secretary of State, to see President Saddam in Baghdad, and two Republican senators, who met President Bush

yesterday, said that he was prepared to abandon the initiative.

"He believes Saddam needs to get the point that it's Saddam who's in trouble, and if we have no meetings, so be it," said Richard Lugar, a senior Republican. The Bush administration said it will not receive Mr Aziz on Monday unless President Saddam drops his insistence that he cannot see Mr Baker until January 12. Washington insists this is too near the January 15 UN deadline for the use of force against Iraq, and is accusing the Iraqis of trying to buy time.

"He can see John Connally, he can see Muhammad Ali, he can see Ted Heath and so on, at 15 minutes' notice" one exasperated official was quoted as saying yesterday. "You're telling me he doesn't have an hour or two hours or whatever it takes between December 20 and January 3 to see the US Secretary of State?"

The Pentagon is meanwhile continuing its detailed preparations for war. With the last of the US hostages arriving home yesterday, American military commanders are reportedly revising their lists of potential targets in Iraq to include military and other strategic installations where the hostages had been kept as "human shields".

The Los Angeles Times reported that, despite the administration's repeated assertions that military plans would not be influenced by the location of the hostages, certain "secondary" targets had in fact been declared off-limits.

The Pentagon has made contingency arrangements with civilian hospitals in the United States to provide specialised treatment or longer-term facilities for wounded American servicemen, a spokesman said. It has also activated, for the first time, a long-standing contract to procure extra blood and blood products from civilian blood banks for Gulf use.

On a lighter note, The Washington Post disclosed yesterday that the Pentagon has chartered the *Cunard Princess*, a luxury cruise ship, to go to the Gulf and provide three or four-day periods of rest and relaxation for up to 800 desert-weary servicemen at a time. The six-month charter is costing \$31 million (£16.3 million), and the Pentagon is looking for a second vessel despite fears of some officials that the ships could become terrorist targets.

Polls meanwhile show the American public to be deeply divided on whether America should go to war if Iraq has not withdrawn from Kuwait by January 15. A New York Times survey published yesterday showed 45 per cent in favour of military action, and 48 per cent in favour of giving sanctions more time. However by 51 to 39 per cent respondents to a Wall Street Journal poll said an agreement under which Iraq withdrew from Kuwait in return for concessions on a disputed oilfield would be acceptable.

Marty Rosenbluth, an American who works with Palestinian trade unions, said that the green card scheme was designed to combat grassroots political activism.

Anti-war declaration, page 14

Three more Jews stabbed to death

From PAUL ADAMS IN JAFFA

THREE Israelis were stabbed to death yesterday in an aluminium factory on the edge of this mixed Jewish-Arab town.

The Israeli, two men and a woman, were the latest victims of a spate of attacks on Jews which has left seven dead and 16 injured since the October killing of at least 17 Arabs outside the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Police suspect Islamic militants of carrying out yesterday's murders. The police commissioner, Yacov Tenner, said slogans daubed on a factory wall indicated that the outlawed Hamas organisation was responsible.

After the discovery of the bodies dozens of angry Israelis lined nearby roads, stoning Arab cars and chanting: "Death to the Arabs!" One Arab was stabbed in the head and several Jews were arrested.

The distinctive yellow flags of the extreme right-wing Kach organisation, whose fiery leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane, was shot dead in New York last month, were also on display.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, returning from a trip to Washington, called the attack a terrifying murder. "I believe our people will consult on measures to prevent a repetition of these kinds of things," he said.

At least one right-wing politician, Yuval Neeman, the science and energy minister, spoke of a possible backlash against Arabs. "If the government will not take drastic measures it won't be possible to prevent any more spontaneous Jewish execution squads from revenge killings on Arabs," he said.

Mr Neeman said he had been advocating the expulsion of intifada leaders and the censorship of sermons in



Shamir pledged measures to prevent repetition.



A former hostage, David Dorrington, helping his wife, Sue, at the office of the Gulf Support Group

"They've got to get jobs," said Mr Dorrington, "but what do you do when you have nothing to wear but a tatty jacket?"

"People are reacting differently to those who have returned now that they are no longer hostages. There must be employers who can give jobs to these people."

Louise Hamilton, the group's office co-ordinator, said that yesterday was dreadful. "Some former hostages haven't lived here for several years and they just don't know where to turn. They have no money. Some have no clothes."

The group now hopes to form a sub-group, the Kuwaiti Expatriates Group, to deal with the problems faced by those who have returned to

say all war between Iraq and the American-led multinational forces is Iraq's battle.

Iraq has accused the United States of trying to be the world's sole superpower in the post-Cold War era, of trying to seize control of Arab oil resources and of having bullied, cajoled, bribed and threatened a whole range of states to secure 12 United Nations Security Council resolutions in four months condemning Iraq. *Al-Thawra* said this week to allow all foreigners to leave.

In the early days of the confrontation over Kuwait, President Saddam Hussein tried to seize the moral high ground by offering free oil to Third World countries whose economies were squeezed by rising oil prices.

IRAQ, posing as the defender of the free world, yesterday spoke of a dark new era if its forces lost a war in the Gulf. A victorious President Bush, it said, would turn into an international dictator and enslave poorer nations.

"Without victory, God forbid, a new American era will prevail over our world," said an editorial in *al-Thawra*, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party. "It will be the era of international dictatorship where the American president turns out to be an international dictator."

Unless Iraq won, "the Third World nations will turn into groups of slaves, humanity will enter a dark era, the future of humanity will be fully controlled (by the US) and the situation will be worse than the days of old colonialism," said *al-Thawra*.

Insisting that an Iraqi victory was close, *al-Thawra* said: "It is an honour for Arabism that Iraq and the Arab nation are confronting American arrogance, therefore the Arab nation in this battle has no alternative but victory by God's will."

With a United Nations deadline authorising force to free Kuwait just a month away and direct talks between Washington and Baghdad deadlocked over disagreement on their timing, Iraq has become increasingly belligerent in recent days, dashing hopes it would make more concessions after deciding last

is thought to be considering reducing the embassy to a skeleton staff, as was done in Kuwait in August. With most of the Britons already home, the heavy workload of recent weeks is expected to ease.

Michael Weston and Larry Banks, the two remaining diplomats in Kuwait, are expected home next week after completing their efforts to contact those Britons whom have stayed behind. They want to be sure that no one has missed warnings to leave broadcast by the BBC World Service. The departure of the two diplomats will mean that any remaining Europeans will have no further way of seeking consular help. They have been a point of contact for people from other EC countries, whose diplomats left earlier.

Diplomats who left the embassy in Kuwait in September were prevented from returning to Britain and have been working at the embassy in Baghdad, but no repetition of this problem is expected when Mr Weston and Mr Banks leave.

Mr Walker said that life in the embassy in Baghdad was normal, except for long days spent in the office. The impression of normality is thought by observers to be artificial fostered by Baghdad to maintain public confidence.

Mr Walker will not remain in Britain after the talks and a few days leave. He said he would probably return to Baghdad on December 28, which would mean missing his daughter's wedding in January.

Diary, page 14



Iraq sees 'new dark era'

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

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Defenders of animal rights get the hump

From SUSAN ELICKIT IN WASHINGTON

THOSE who doubt the American public's mettle to stomach a war in the Gulf must have sighed in despair at a recent fuss made about a couple of camels. Pictures of two hit by mortar fire during a United States forces' training exercise in Saudi Arabia had hardly flashed on to television screens when a Boston-based animal protection group wrote to President Bush's chief military adviser, Colin Powell.

Its members complained at seeing one of the beasts dead and another suffering while American officers made a frantic search for its owner even though the programme explained that Saudi law does not permit the killing of camels on humane grounds without their owners' permission.

General Powell passed the note to Norman Schwarzkopf, the United States commander for Operation Desert Shield, whose legal advisers replied that the host country would bend the rules in future. The Saudis seem to hold no grudges: a group of Bedouin has donated a female camel named Suzie to give rides to off-duty troops.

Meanwhile, the human suffering in the Gulf is making compelling reading as newspapers in America appeal to families to share with millions of unknown compatriots the emotional letters from their loved ones in the desert. USA Today has been running a "Letters home" corner guaranteed to leave dry the eyes of only granite-hearted readers. Dear mom and dad, Dear sweetheart, Dear folks, they begin, describing scorpions the size of field mice and snakes in their tents.

"Dear puppy-dad," wrote Sharon Foster, aged 22, to her 17-month-old son to explain why she and her husband, army medics, are away. "Not a day goes by where I don't call your name, picture your little face or yearn to hold you tight in my loving mother's arms."

In the early days of the confrontation over Kuwait, President Saddam Hussein tried to seize the moral high ground by offering free oil to Third World countries whose economies were squeezed by rising oil prices.

Dear daddy,

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Charles Shahan, a private first class marine, aged 19, wrote to his grandparents:

"I've never really been scared before, until I came here. It's scary thinking I might not make it back."

Growing fears in Jordan of war

Annan — Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan said yesterday that there was a growing resignation among his 3.4 million compatriots to the possibility of a Gulf war in which Jordan, formerly a highly regarded strategic ally of the West, could become involved (Christopher Walker writes).

In an interview with *The Times*, the prince also made a plea for issues such as the Palestine problem to be dealt with separately, so that Iraq and America could concentrate, in the weeks before the January 15 UN deadline, on Baghdad's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. The prince, who has been associated with the current peace mission of President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, also called for confidence-building measures on both sides to help avoid war. He said that America had not paid sufficient regard to Iraq's recent decision to release all hostages.

Hungarian aid

Budapest — Hungary plans to send a volunteer medical team to the Gulf. A defence ministry spokesman said yesterday that if parliament approves, Budapest will send a team of about 50 volunteers that could either work with British land forces in the region or assist a Saudi Arabian hospital. (Reuters)

Red Cross plea

Geneva — The Red Cross criticised Iraq yesterday for continuing to prevent its delegates from working in Kuwait and Iraq, and issued a notice to all signatories of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which protect victims of war, as a reminder of the need to respect the provisions if hostilities start. (Reuters)

Tokyo defiant

Tokyo — Japan rejected criticism of its Gulf policy by hostages returning home in the past two weeks from Iraq. Tokyo has sent money but not troops to the international force. The government said that any separate deal would have fractured the alliance against President Saddam Hussein. (Reuters)

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Striking workers call on Iliescu to resign in Timisoara protest

From TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

Thousands of striking workers took to the streets of Timisoara yesterday evening as the city prepared to celebrate the anniversary of the Romanian revolution which began there a year ago this weekend.

As night fell, the workers marched through the town centre carrying anti-government banners and demanding the resignation of President Iliescu and the prime minister, Petre Roman. One slogan shouted by the workers was: "Iliescu is the best pig to slaughter before Christmas."

The strikes began in Timisoara on Thursday at the Electrobanat plant and by yesterday had spread to other enterprises employing up to 10,000 workers. The Timisoara industrial unrest comes after the

government succeeded in averting a general strike call by the militant drivers' union, whose lorries had been parked on the outskirts of Bucharest ready to isolate the capital if their demands were not met.

Students across Romania continued their own strikes but yesterday their leader, Marian Munteanu, said that it would have to be abandoned unless they were joined by "workers and other social categories".

Clearly nervous that the revolutionary celebrations, which are due to begin with a big opposition rally in Timisoara tomorrow, could spark violent unrest, the government has recently promised to slow its painful economic reforms. A week ago President

Roman announced the postponement of big increases in the price of basic foodstuffs and in the run-up to Christmas more food has been seen in the shops than for several months.

Mr Roman's government has been coming under increasing pressure since November 1, when he started to implement his radical economic reform plan. The prices of the few goods available have since more than doubled. Shoes for example, when they can be found, now cost the equivalent of 10 days' pay.

Speaking earlier in the week, Mr Roman said that the popular discontent was "justified" but that the government had "not committed any errors which, in turn, would justify our replacement". He also blamed sections of the media for heightening social tension during "an emotional" period.

On Thursday, parliament appealed for calm and issued a resolution saying: "The political and economic reform needed by the country cannot be achieved without a climate of peace... and co-operation between all parties and citizens."

While the government is under increasing pressure because of the parlous state of the economy, the anniversary of the revolution is bound to reopen several questions concerning the events of last December. A year after the violence in which more than a thousand people died, no one knows for certain who actually killed them. Only 35 people have been convicted for their part in the killings. Of late the government has begun to talk of the increasing "infiltration of foreign agents" into Romania and echoing the testimony of Iulian Vlad, the former head of the Securitate, at his trial. It has even been suggested that the uprising in Timisoara was begun by these same mysterious foreign agents.

Ariam Inami, one of the Democratic Party's activists, echoed President Alia's appeal for calm yesterday saying: "Violent demonstrations can only slow down the progress of democracy."

Opposition sources shared the government conviction that "provocateurs and dark forces" were behind the unrest. As the opposition leadership is drawn exclusively from the ruling elite, it remains to be seen whether it can enjoy any real credibility outside the capital, Tirana. Witnesses there yesterday spoke of a growing fear that the country will slide shortly into civil war between Communists and moderate intellectuals supported by the students.

Tirana rulers seek ally in opposition

From RICHARD BASSETT AND DESSA TREVISON IN BELGRADE

THE Albanian president, Ramiz Alia, yesterday enlisted the support of the first Albanian opposition party, the Democratic Party, in an effort to prevent the wave of unrest spreading.

In the important steel town of Elbasan, more than 4,000 factory workers took to the streets yesterday and were alleged to have stoned the local Communist Party headquarters and police offices. The factory has faced growing unrest for several months, with workers protesting at wage cuts and the absence of any reforms.

Gramoz Pashko, an economics professor and a Democratic Party leader, said yesterday: "We must do something for the workers, and quickly. They are impatient and restless."

At least 10 demonstrators were injured in Thursday's protests in the northern Albanian city of Shkoder. There were bloody clashes between several thousand demonstrators and at least 400 policemen for more than six hours. Only the deployment of the army restored order.

According to the official Albanian news agency, 30 demon-

strators have been arrested in Shkoder.

Leaders of the Democratic Party appeared on television again yesterday to condemn the rioting in Shkoder and similar disturbances in Kavaje where, according to official reports, more than a thousand teenagers hurled stones at public buildings on Thursday, including the Communist Party headquarters.

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Final reckoning: an exhausted Tadeusz Mazowiecki addressing the lower house of the Polish parliament yesterday in Warsaw on his last appearance as prime minister

No fanfare for Mazowiecki exit

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND buried the first Solidarity government yesterday. Parliament, by a vote of 224 to 16, accepted the resignation of the prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who when he came to power in September 1989 was the first non-communist head of government in the Soviet bloc.

It was a quiet funeral. The excitement that ushered in the Solidarity administration 15 months ago has fizzled out; the sense that Poland was on the brink of a grand trail-blazing experiment has been replaced by the exhaustion that was clearly reflected on the features of the defeated prime minister yesterday.

"Our government is leaving after having done only half of what it intended to do," Mr Mazowiecki told the lower house (Sejm) in his farewell speech. "But our drafts have either been completed or work is beginning on them." Much of Mr Mazowiecki's speech was an implicit indictment of Lech Wałęsa, the Solidarity leader, who forced early presidential elections.

When Mr Wałęsa resoundingly defeated Mr Mazowiecki in the first round, it was obvious that the prime minister had to go. The cabinet opted to resign with him.

"The foundation of our government was mutual understanding with society. We had two basic goals – to overcome the economic crisis and to build a democratic state. Unfortunately, this road has

been destroyed." How much of the Mazowiecki government will remain in place is still unclear.

Mr Wałęsa, when he is sworn in as president in the coming days, seems certain to choose the 60-year-old political defence lawyer Jan Olszewski as his prime minister. Mr Olszewski has held preliminary talks with the finance minister, Dr Leszek Balcerowicz, to persuade him to stay on and continue his austerity programme.

There are other candidates for the job of finance minister if Dr Balcerowicz decides to abandon government, but a great deal of international confidence, including that of the International Monetary Fund, hinges on his political survival.

Moscow dusts off 'daubing of fools'

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

EXACTLY twenty-eight years after Nikita Khrushchev pronounced his disgust with abstract art, dismissing it as "the daubing of fools" and banning its public display, the artists have their revenge – and it is sweet.

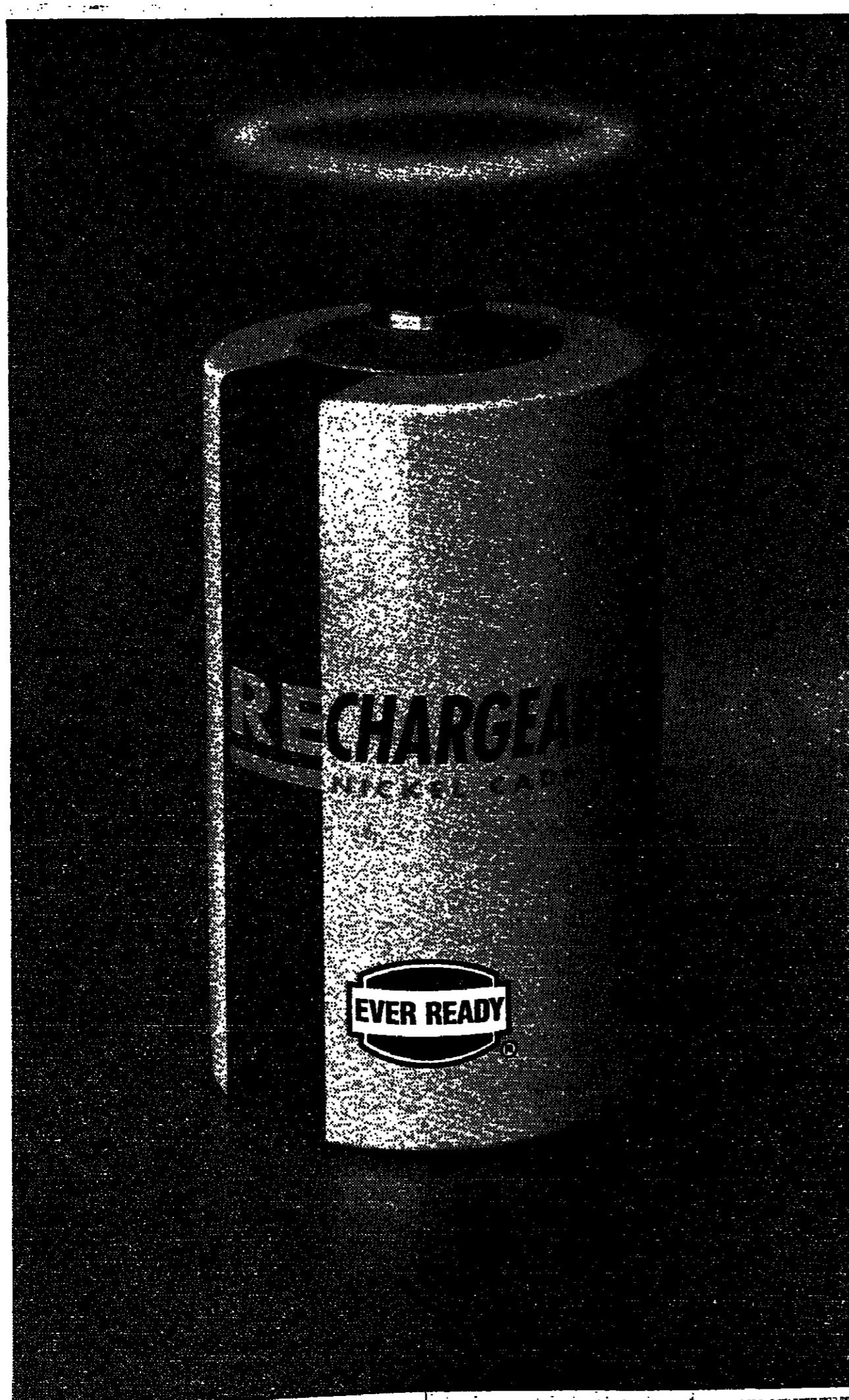
While Khrushchev has lain in the Novodevichy cemetery these 19 years, the pictures he so disparaged have gained a second life. They have been brought out of the cellars and vaults, dusted off, and will provide the focus for a vast exhibition of abstract art which opens in Moscow on Monday. Almost 1,000 paintings and sculptures, most of them by the artists denounced by Khrushchev, will go on show in the same central exhibition hall, the Manezh, where he gave his fateful verdict.

Yesterday, as banging and sawing echoed through the cavernous hall and staff finalised the hanging, those who recalled the events of 1962 were near to tears as they saw the pictures of their youth displayed again. Here and there, a familiar painting catches the eye; but the overriding impression even now is the class of the exhibits. In what one of the exhibition staff described as "a small scandal", more than 200 were hidden until now.

Introducing the exhibition, Eli Belyutin, whose studio drew the young iconoclastic artists of the post-war generation and was last year revived for the first time since 1962, spoke for many when he said: "We could never have imagined that after all these years we would encounter so much goodwill." He said that the exhibition, entitled "Manezh '90 – Manezh '90: the new reality", had been arranged at the wish of Mikhail Gorbachev and his presidential council.

But not all is likely to go smoothly even when it has opened. Next week, Moscow will be full of congress delegates from the provinces. The abstract, but still identifiable, naked bodies and the suggested violence will draw objections. The guardians of public morality, newly invigorated by Mr Gorbachev's instruction to clamp down on pornography and raise moral standards, will also be ready. The rest, however, will be queuing in their hundreds.

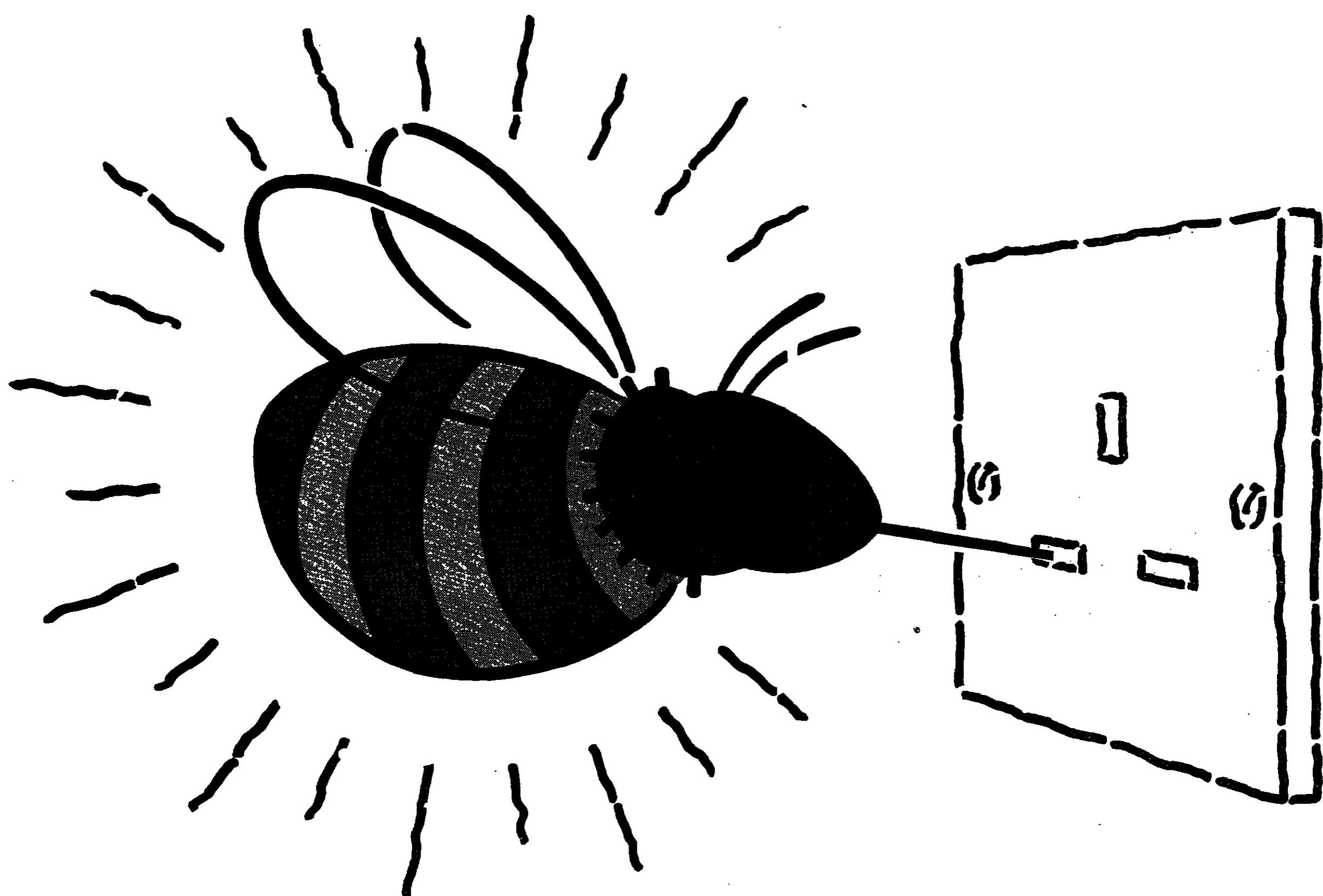
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13



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White House feud deprives Bush of new party chief

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's choice for chief of the Republican Party, William Bennett, has become the latest victim of the ideological and tactical infighting which has turned the "kinder, gentler" White House into a capital joke. While Mr Bush's eyes have been fixed on the Gulf, splits have grown within his party which may soon threaten the presidency, according to senior aides.

The news that the rumbustious right-wing Mr Bennett, the former anti-drug tsar, had left the chairmanship came as a shock. The president had appointed him barely two weeks ago. But of greater interest were the conflicting accounts of who pushed him.

Officially the villain was Mr Bennett's desire to earn a fortune from books and

speeches about his days as drug tsar and resident White House philosopher. But it soon became clear that a dispute had been fought between Mr Bennett and Mr Bush's chief of staff, John Sununu. The result is that Mr Bennett, who might have been one of the few powerful right-wing advocates for Mr Bush in the next two years, might oppose him for the Republican nomination in 1992.

Mr Bennett is the second senior figure this week to feel "the wrath of Sununu". On Wednesday the education secretary, Lauro Cavazos, resigned. The Bennett departure is more serious. Mr Bennett has open presidential ambitions.

The White House strategy was to keep him on the inside and encourage him to set his hopes on the end of Mr Bush's second term in 1996. The president had corralled the two other most prominent right-wingers, the housing and urban development secretary, Jack Kemp, and the Texas senator, Phil Gramm, who has recently been made head of the Senate Republican campaign committee.

This Sununu plan to curb conservative criticism of the president, which has been growing since the abandonment of the "no new taxes" pledge and exacerbated by fears of war, is now in tatters. The White House staff was already at odds over the so-called "new paradigm" programme of radical populist measures, which influential junior aides, opposed to Mr Sununu, want to see incorporated in the new year State of the Union speech.

The young right-wingers see the president's closest advisers as bureaucratic and elitist — dubbing them "social Darnans" after the White House budget director, Richard Darman, architect of the tax-raising budget deal. Now the fiery Mr Bennett, a ready spokesman for education vouchers, assaults on bureaucracy and other conservative issues, is outside the tent — and many White House advisers are nervous what he might do to those who stayed inside.

According to statements, the reason for Mr Bennett's withdrawal was his insistence that he be allowed sole access to the president. When Mr Bennett tested his rights with Mr Bush and Mr Sununu, forcing the president to ask his chief of staff to leave the room, Mr Sununu's mood was tense. When an account of the snub appeared in *The Washington Times*, Mr Sununu, in the words of one Republican source, "went ballistic" and insisted that the heat be turned up under Mr Bennett until he departed.

The teenager, who lived with the Alves family for seven years, also said that the family had wanted to kill Mendes for some time. Before the teenager began to give evidence, the judge agreed to the prosecution's request that the accused be removed from the court to avoid intimidation. The young ranch hand has been in hiding in Brazil since he agreed to give evidence almost two years ago.

He told those who have supported him since he fled Xapuri that "he wanted to see the case through to the end". He also said: "If the death of Chico had not happened, I would have certainly become a gunman." The third day was expected to be taken up by evidence from about ten witnesses.

The judge, the prosecutor, the Mendes family lawyers and rubber tapper leaders cannot go out at night unaccompanied for fear of being attacked. Xapuri has become accustomed to fear.

Haiti's poor pray for priest to win

From ALAN TOMLINSON IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE impoverished Haitian masses await the rainy season every year to rid them of the piles of stinking rubbish choking the ravines and gullies which dissect their sprawling slums. In Creole, they call the cleaning flood *lavalas*.

Tomorrow the poorest people in the Western hemisphere are praying that another deluge will sweep Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a priest aged 37, into power as their president, and that with his victory the stubborn remnants of Duvalierism will be washed away.

Father Aristide is Haiti's black avenging angel. A diminutive figure with a choirboy face framed in gold-rimmed spectacles, it was he who called on Haitians to drive out the Tontons Macoute, the brutal enforcers of the old regime, in the wake of "Baby Doc" Duvalier's flight into gilded exile in February 1986. Dozens of Macoutes were hacked to death by mobs in the days that followed.

Yet many escape the popular vengeance and, in league with a corrupt and ill-disciplined army, the survivors of the 30-year dictatorship have stood in the way of a democratic transition. An earlier attempt to elect a new president was cancelled in November



Off the shoulder: President Bush taking off his overcoat and suit jacket together during the ceremony of the lighting of America's national Christmas tree in Washington, watched with fascination by his grandson, Sam LeBlond, left. At the ceremony, Mr

Bush spoke of the 260,000 American military personnel stationed in the Gulf region. He declared: "We feel pride thinking of our young men and women standing strong in the harsh distant deserts and on the waters of the ... Gulf, for their courage is the true

eternal flame that will never be extinguished." Earlier, Mr Bush met seven Americans who were held captive for the four months since Iraqi troops overran Kuwait on August 2. It was the president's first meeting with former hostages.

Tambo points to softening of ANC line on sanctions

From GAVIN SELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress is considering softening its hardline stand on sanctions, Oliver Tambo, the ANC president, confirmed yesterday at a consultative conference of the organisation on the outskirts of Soweto.

Mr Tambo, aged 73, who returned from exile on Thursday, told more than 1,600 delegates: "It is no longer enough for us to repeat the tired slogans. We should carefully re-evaluate the advisability of insisting on sanctions given the new developments in the country and abroad."

Conference discussion papers note that trade sanctions are having little impact, and the diplomatic boycott has all but collapsed. They propose a gradual easing of trade, cultural and sports sanctions, but that financial, arms and oil embargoes should remain.

There should be discussions with the international business community, in preparation for investment in a post-apartheid South Africa.

After three decades of repression, the ANC senses it is close to gaining power and it is resolved to do so as quickly as possible by compelling the government to resign under popular pressure. The dra-

matic turnaround in the ANC's fortunes since it was unbanned in February was apparent at the conference.

A year ago, all the singing, dancing activists were outlaws, and their leaders were either in prison or in exile. Under the slogan "peace and freedom now", they are now earnestly debating strategy for realising their dream of a non-racial democracy.

Short-term tactics expected to be approved by the conference include mass demonstrations to press demands for an interim government and an elected assembly to draft a post-apartheid constitution. The overall aim is to seize the initiative from the government, and to exercise control over the negotiations process.

The sense of impending victory, however illusory it may prove to be, was expressed by Mr Tambo. He declared: "Freedom looms large on the horizon. We are finally seeing light at the end of a long and dark tunnel ... we have never met at a time when there was such an amount of promise, in an hour so packed with possibilities of a great leap forward."

R. W. Johnson, page 12

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An elite with no answer

Clifford Longley

Britain's commitment in the Gulf is second only to the American, and in Britain there is wider cross-party support. Opposition comes principally from the left of the Labour party and from within the churches. And it is more the religious intelligentsia than the official religious leadership that is marching at the head of the peace column, the "religentists", or at least a good part of it.

The religentists, it seems, would not fight for Queen and country, nor for the UN. Its attitude has had a striking influence on church leaders in Britain, who seem anxious not to defy too directly the pacifist intellectual consensus.

It is an elite group. Last month more than 100 of its members signed a public anti-war declaration, and almost every one was a professor, a bishop, a religious superior, a theologian of known repute, or something equivalent. They included the Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Rev John Baker, the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Right Rev Richard Holloway, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Crispian Hollis — three of the leading churchmen of their generation.

Even more remarkable was the intellectual shoddiness of the document they signed. It is so full of holes it is hardly worth tearing to pieces, though the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, duly performed the task in last week's *Tablet*. He concluded: "Sadly, this makes war more likely."

An unspecified "Arab opinion" floats in and out of the text, allegedly holding certain views or drawing certain conclusions unfavourable to the West. No undergraduate essay writer — and most of these people have marked a lot of undergraduate essays in their time — would be allowed to get away with so phoney a rhetorical device. The more serious bits of the 800-word document skip over non sequiturs with a facility Saddam Hussein himself would admire.

The conclusion, not surprisingly, neither follows from the premises nor is supported by the argument, in so far as there is one. That conclusion, equally not surprisingly, is against military action in the Gulf.

That may be right or wrong, and it is best to assume that the case against a Gulf war is rather stronger than this one. But why did anybody sign such a pathetic tissue?

Every one of the signatories could surely have done a first-class job of it with a little effort. Bishop Harries, who accused them of living in a fairy-tale world, must surely be right when he remarked: "During the last decade some Christian churches in Britain have been so opposed to Mrs Thatcher that many Christians now have a knee-jerk hostility towards every

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

A remark once made to me by a battle-hardened district nurse in Derbyshire is lodged firmly in my mind. It was Christmas Day, and, being the local MP, I was doing the rounds of the hospitals and institutions.

This is a depressing duty at Christmas: most of those fit enough to know who they are have been judged fit enough to spend the day with their families. As a result, those with whom the MP spends his time are, almost by definition, unlikely to know what an MP is, let alone appreciate his attentions. Still, I did it. The Member of Parliament for West Derbyshire had always done it.

Health service staff were obliged to accompany me. And it was while going the rounds with the district nurse that we stopped in a particularly hopeless geriatric ward. Creatures who were barely sentient gibbered in their iron-caged beds. I murmured something sympathetic. The district nurse looked at me, sharply.

"Huh!" she grunted. "I blame the central heating. Before that, one good Derbyshire winter would have cut through this like a knife through butter."

The media, I think, would not care for that sentiment. "The media" are, of course, deeply caring, socially responsible, and "passionately concerned about the environment". The "caring" message is that the elderly must be kept by public funds at guaranteed room-temperatures throughout the winter, and that the central heating of every citizen's household or office, and every public institution, is a fundamental human right, to be provided — if necessary — at the Exchequer's expense.

The "socially responsible" element chips in to add (for instance) that every yard of every street and motorway should be artificially lit all night; that empty buses and trains should proceed in all directions all hours on the offchance that someone might need them; and that scares over salmonella and so on teach us prudently to regard the domestic refrigerator as a place for food to pause briefly during its passage from the supermarket.

market shelf to the dustbin. But that is only half of the conventional wisdom. The "environmentally concerned" half has a different message. It says we must husband our planet's resources. We must not waste food. We must save our forests, conserve our fossil reserves, cut down our carbon dioxide emissions and remove the aluminium tabs from cans, for recycling.

I sense a tension between these two halves of what a forward-thinking person believes. If there is a single policy most likely to contribute to the plunder of common resources, it is the provision — to all, as of right, and "free at the point of use" — of a generous guaranteed measure of food, warmth, clothing and light.

For what are the Earth's two greatest problems, if not overpopulation and the wasteful depletion of finite resources?

Yet nothing uses up resources faster than the measures we take to keep ourselves safe, clean and warm. By insisting that not just our bodies, but every cubic yard of every room — occupied or not — of the houses we live in is heated day and night; by taking hot baths and showers almost obsessively, discharging soap, detergent and disinfectant on a scale previously undreamed of; by flushing gallons of expensively purified water down the loo every time we urinate; by insisting that we put not a foot out of doors after dark except in conditions of intense artificial illumination; by holding it a duty to prolong our own lives way beyond their natural limits; and by demanding these things not only for ourselves, but for the poor in the rich countries, and, finally, the poor in the poor countries too, we must surely be on course to wreck the globe before the century is out.

If people were colder, dirtier and hungrier, then more would die and those who lived would take less of a toll on global resources. Two problems would be solved at once. The greens say that economic growth is the enemy of our planet. But one can go further. The environmental case for reactionary social policy seems to me to be overwhelming.

Ian McIntyre on The Listener's noble aspirations, and the reason for its death

Cultural uplift that declined and fell

Early in 1929 Sir John Reith, the first director general of the BBC, wrote in his diary of the controversial plan to launch *The Listener*: "Apparently every newspaper in the country is trying to prevent our publishing it." He would not be worried, though, "if only the damn silly governors would keep out of it".

The governors obliged, and Reith arranged matters as he quite often contrived to do. Within ten years, the new weekly was selling 50,000 copies. It peaked in 1949 at 151,350. By this week, when the life-support system was finally turned off, the circulation had sunk well below the 27,000 it achieved in its first year of publication.

The Listener was a proving exception to the rule that nothing is ever achieved by a committee. The committee in question had been set up under Sir Henry Hadow, a distinguished musician and educationist, with the Fabian historian G.D.H. Cole among its members. The recommendations of its report, *New Ventures in Broadcasting*, published in 1928, included the establishment of a weekly magazine that would publish broadcast talks and gen-

erally promote the BBC's adult education work.

By autumn, a young Oxford-educated pacifist called Richard Lambert had been appointed editor and dummies were in preparation. (Lambert was a man of spirit. When he applied for an educational appointment with the BBC two years earlier, Reith asked him: "Do you accept the fundamental teachings of Jesus Christ?" Lambert paused briefly, then answered in the negative).

It was the second dummy that fit the blue paper because it showed that the BBC proposed to publish not just the verbatim text of talks, but also pictures, book reviews and articles on broadcast music. From the earliest days, the newspaper proprietors had believed that radio would damage their advertising revenue. They had already been caught napping by *Radio Times*, which had begun to yield a sizeable revenue. This looked like more of the same.

"It is without doubt a profit-making proposition," complained the *Financial News*. "The project is thoroughly objectionable," said the *New Statesman*. Stanley Baldwin received a deposition at Number Ten. A formula was then

agreed: the paper would not contain more than 10 per cent of original material not related to broadcasting, a curiously elastic form of words that left the editor much scope for ingenuity. The BBC also said it did not intend to accept for *The Listener* more advertisements than were necessary, with its other revenue, to cover its total cost.

This was a tremendous liberation for the new magazine, because it effectively established the primacy of the editor over the advertisement director. External opposition gave way to internal friction, notably with the talk department, which feared that its coaching they had been given in to sound colloquial and revert to a "literary" style.

The paper quickly threw off any idea that its editorial brief was narrowly educational and established itself, in Lambert's phrase, as "a vehicle of general culture". With people of the calibre of "People and Things". The paper developed a reputation for the quality of its illustrations — it was in *The Listener* that many people first encountered Gwen Raverat's work — and until the coming of *Picture Post* it could boast to be the best-illustrated three-penny magazine in the country.

So who killed this cock-robin of the weeklies? Television, with its little eye? Far too facile a correlation. The fact is that the paper had been dying in slow motion for a long time. It went through a phase some years ago of pretending that

on books would translate successfully into print; various BBC panjandums had to be reassured that Sir Herbert Read did not really favour "Bolshevism" in art; some of Reith's fellow members of the Athenaeum had to be convinced that not all contemporary fiction was "unwholesome".

Within a year of its launch, the list of contributors included Beatrice Webb ("Taking the Strain off Parliament"), Solly Zuckerman ("Monkeys and Men") and Bronislaw Malinowski ("Race and Labour"). Via Sackville-West was reviewing new novels and her husband, Harold Nicholson, was expatiating on "People and Things". The paper developed a reputation for the quality of its illustrations — it was in *The Listener* that many people first encountered Gwen Raverat's work — and until the coming of *Picture Post* it could boast to be the best-illustrated three-penny magazine in the country.

The paper had flourished in the broad acres of public-service broadcasting. The soil in those fields was now too thin to sustain it. There was one last despairing throw — the bizarre notion that Independent Television could be drawn in as elderly stepfather and that *The Listener* could somehow be transformed into a magazine serving the "broadcasting industry" as a whole.

There's an old rhyme that fits: "Rattle his bones over the stone; He's only a pauper whom nobody owns!"

Behind the clenched fists, a movement in disarray

R.W. Johnson reports on the tensions within the ANC that the current conference will find hard to disguise



Oliver Tambo returns home after 30 years' exile, to be faced by a need for clear leadership

equality between the whites, Africans, Indians and coloureds within its ranks, but tensions naturally exist, as they also sometimes do on African tribal lines.

There are divisions, too, between exiles and those who stayed at home — particularly since the exiles often tend to assume not only that they will walk into leadership positions but that they cannot be expected to accept the full rigours of township life. Exiles

who have had children at school in England are, for example, naturally unwilling to put them into the violent and deprived world of township schools. But any demand for special privileges is

resisted.

There is tension, too, between the quasi-masonic élite of former Robben Island prisoners who constitute much of the leadership and those who accuse it of a "top-down" leadership style. In particular, the failure to consult the wider movement before taking the cardinals

and notes that the South African Communist party has a far more privileged position. Indeed, many believe that Nelson Mandela has been encouraged to go off on international jaunts while the Communists hunker down from within.

But more important is the feeling that the ANC has lost its sense of direction. Why, many ask, are not all the exiles back by now? Why, if the ANC has carried out a census of exiles, is it unable to tell the government how many there are? Why are so many political prisoners still in detention? The government has been pressing the ANC to get on with constitutional negotiations, and it is the ANC that has asked for delay — in order to hold this conference whose status has now been downgraded anyway. Meanwhile, President de Klerk goes happily abroad dismantling apartheid, but always on his own initiative, never as a result of concessions wrung from him by

the white majority.

The result is a hubbub of contradictory voices, a member

of the ANC's internal

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SHADOWS IN MOSCOW

The ugliest spectre of the Soviet Union's all-too-recent past, sheltered until now from close scrutiny in the West, have started creeping from the shadows. Until his appearances this week, the outside world had heard little in recent years from General Vladimir Kryuchkov, chairman of the KGB. Yet he and the defence minister, Dmitri Yazov, suddenly appear to be calling the shots.

President Gorbachev himself was originally the favoured heir of the late Yuri Andropov, the KGB man whose reign as party leader was cut short by death. Mr Gorbachev is the sole survivor of Brezhnev's politburo. Mr Gorbachev is a psychological and institutional product of that system. He has responded to growing civil disobedience, demonstrations and food-hoarding by setting up an "economic sabotage unit" based at the Lubyanka.

This winter's catastrophe in the Soviet distribution of food and other necessities was predictable and predicted. It has come about, despite a bumper harvest last summer and generous co-operation from the West in recent months, because the opportunity for a rapid transition to a market economy was missed in the early autumn, missed most critically in the distributive trades. Mr Gorbachev simply funded it.

Instead of setting an example to the republics by creating a legal framework of private property and a monetary climate in which capitalism might emerge, the Soviet authorities have done their best to thwart tentative efforts in the right direction by the more progressive republican governments, such as Russia, Ukraine and the Baltic states.

This new repressive climate suggests a reversal in recent more sensitive treatment by Moscow of the Soviet nationalities. Mr Gorbachev's draft treaty of union published last month proposes a liberal-sounding "sovereign federative state", in which the Union would only "exercise the degree of political power given to it by the parties to the treaty". But it also gives the Union the right "to co-

ordinate activities to maintain public order and combat crime." That clause could allow the KGB to preserve its hold over the republics indefinitely. Mr Kryuchkov has already insisted on "halting the process" towards a looser Union. If this frustrates the constitutional road towards regional independence, the republics are unlikely to submit without violence.

If Mr Gorbachev is indeed contemplating a reversion to overt repression, what is the likelihood of him stopping continued economic decline? By extinguishing the semi-legal private market in staple commodities, the Soviet regime would increase pressure on the chaotic state supply network. The Kremlin is now appealing for cash from the West, while increasing the Soviet military budget. This is despairing cynicism.

Nothing the Kremlin does will bring back the old economic order. Comecon has dissolved and the Soviet republics have passed too far down the road to economic independence. Yet the extension of rationing before shortages would appear to warrant such measures, shows that Mr Gorbachev anticipates a siege economy in 1991.

The West cannot react with indifference to this gloomy prospect. German and American air packages are now to be joined by a European Community programme, agreed in Rome. Right though it may be to make kindly gestures, food aid will just disappear into the void of Soviet maldistribution and corruption without relieving those at risk of hunger. The Soviet authorities seem not interested in accepting the only sort of aid that might be received, transport.

No doubt it would be inconvenient for the West if Mr Gorbachev were to fall before the Gulf conflict has been resolved. That does not alter the fact that this attempt to manipulate the internal struggle in Mr Gorbachev's favour is unlikely to succeed. The imponderables are too great; popular opposition to the course on which the Soviet President seems to have embarked will be formidable.

A MISSION FOR MR BAKER

A constant stream of adverse reports on Britain's prisons is at last pushing penal reform on to the political agenda. If the new home secretary, Kenneth Baker, truly wants to take "an initiative", as he has reportedly told his staff, he should make the fur fly in the prison department. Judge Stephen Tumim's report on suicides and other matters at Brixton prison in London, published yesterday, raises the question why this inhumane jail was not closed long ago, not whether the Home Office has a two-year programme for this and a three-year programme for that. British prisons echo with such excuses and promises from the past.

Judge Tumim, as chief inspector of prisons, has told the Home Office nothing about Brixton it does not know already. There were seven suicides last year in F block, the psychiatric wing, and a high rate of non-fatal self-inflicted injury. Officials must have known that mentally disturbed prisoners — many of them on remand and therefore innocent in the eyes of the law — are crammed for months on end to brood in dirty, smelly, ill-lit cells where the windows have convenient bars.

Who would not go mad in such a place? Knowing all this, and reminded of the deplorable condition of Britain's entire jail system in each of Judge Tumim's regular reports, successive home secretaries have had no better idea than to throw money into building new prisons, a long-term recipe for more of the same thing.

There is no limit to how far a Baker prison initiative could go. He should introduce into the service the sort of independent leadership brought into the health service and the nationalised industries. He should confront overmanning and restrictive practices among prison officers, be prepared to sack governors, purge civil servants who make poor managers — even put the admirable Judge Tumim in charge with a free hand to clean out the stables. No part of the public sector has failed so miserably; wholesale privatisation of the prison service is now an imperative. Has Mr Baker the courage?

Brixton is mostly used for prisoners on

O SOLE MIO?

The European Community was created by a Treaty of Rome. The conference which preceded the treaty was held in Messina. A summit in Milan was the launching pad for the Single European Act in June 1985. It was from the battlements of a Rome summit that Margaret Thatcher was finally to fall. To like, to her doom last October, and another Rome meeting is now laying the foundations for European monetary and political union. What is it about the air of Italy that seems so inspiring to the European spirit?

Cast a cold eye over the Italian political economy and the reason is not easy to discern. Italy can hardly be described as an enthusiastic, or even a "good", European country. In implementing the directives of the 1992 programme, for example, Italy has one of the worst records in the European Community. As of September, it was dragging its feet on 62 out of the 107 EC decisions which had to be effected by the end of 1990. Britain was second after Denmark in *communautaire* behaviour, with only 18 decisions not yet in national law.

The same reluctant Europeanism strikes any visitor, whether on Italy's roads, clogged almost entirely by locally-made Fiats, in its banks and offices, served largely by Olivetti computers, or in its household stores, where only Indesit and Zanussi appear to be for sale. Statistics bear this impression out. Italy does less trade with the rest of Europe than any community country apart from Spain. Last year its imports from the rest of Europe amounted to only 9½ per cent of gross domestic product, compared with 12½ per cent in Britain and West Germany and 14 per cent in France.

electronics industries have much to lose from the 1992 programme, and nobody seriously supposes that Brussels regulation will have any greater impact on such protection than it has had on mafia manipulation of EC farm and regional subsidies.

Italy is also more at risk than its partners from monetary union, since its political system is built on large government deficits and its inflation rate has remained above the German level, even after 11 years in the ERM. Indeed, Italy's bitter experience with its backward south provides the best counter-example to claims that monetary and economic union will raise the performance of the entire European economy to German standards. It is more likely to lock poor regions into their poverty.

So why have Italy's politicians been so keen on orchestrating the great events of Europe, including the downfall of Mrs Thatcher? There are romantic answers, from a taste for theatrical gestures, often later regretted, to a natural supra-nationalism dating from the Roman and Holy Roman empires. Italians have favoured grandiose confederations from Garibaldi and Mazzini to Mussolini. But the most convincing explanation is that Italians, like many of the Twelve, look to Europe to save them from their own vices.

They hope Brussels will discipline them to do all the things their democracies have not found the courage to do: balance their budgets, overcome corruption, expose industrial dinosaurs to international competition, and above all conquer inflation. They look for a supranational nanny. Britons should not be smug; this is precisely the service Britain is now expecting from Germany within the ERM.

Death penalty under debate again

From the Under Sheriff of Greater London

Sir, If the death penalty is to be restored I hope Parliament will include in Monday's debate consideration of both the means of execution and by whom it will be done.

Hanging is barbarous. There is now no experienced hangman available. There must be accurate calculation of the ratio of the weight of the body to the length of the drop. If the drop is too long, the head may be torn off; if too short and the neck is broken, the prison surgeon may have to finish off the job by pulling on the prisoner's legs.

Would it be preferable to have a firing squad or to import an electric chair from the USA?

The sentence of death is still available as a penalty for treason and certain forms of piracy, but no person is now responsible for seeing to its execution. Such responsibility was given to the sheriff of the county by section 13 of the Sheriff's Act 1887. Home Office rules issued in 1902 under the provisions of the Capital Punishment Amendment Act 1868 provided:

The violation of a person's fundamental human rights can never be justified, either on the grounds of retributive justice, a so-called "deterrent" effect, or on a base of public support for the death penalty.

This year alone Hungary, the Czech and Slovak federative republic, the Republic of Ireland, Andorra, Mozambique, Namibia, and São Tomé and Príncipe, in the gulf of Guinea, have abolished the death penalty. Romania abolished it last year. Proposals to reintroduce it in Argentina were withdrawn earlier this year.

In Britain, there are more pressing and practical reasons for opposing the death penalty. Several recent cases, notably that of the Guildford Four, have demonstrated the fallibility of our judicial system.

Members of Parliament should therefore be reminded that even if they continue to believe that some crimes warrant such punishment or that such punishment would act as a deterrent, their vote carries the potential for innocent persons to be murdered by the state.

I hope Parliament will not vote in favour of capital punishment. I received the last order of reprieve, issued by the then Home Secretary, and notice of commutation of the sentence to one of imprisonment.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BULL, Director,

Amnesty International

(British section),

99-119 Rosebery Avenue, EC1.

December 12.

ment for life, by telegram on Easter Saturday in April 1965. I hope that document will remain the last on my file.

Yours faithfully,

ALASTAIR BLACK, Under Sheriff, Office of the High Sheriff of Greater London, 2 Sergeant's Inn, Fleet Street, EC4.

December 11.

From the Director of Amnesty International (British section)

Sir, Next Monday, a little over 42 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, members of Parliament will again debate and vote on the reintroduction of the death penalty for certain categories of murder, challenging the right of life.

On any reasonable reading of the prospectus it was therefore a fair assumption that these two amounts stood the best chance of receiving an allocation in one's local pic, as both of the two options were likely to be held for three years or more.

Imagine our dismay on learning from *The Times* this morning that my wife and I would both receive nil allocations in Seaboard plc, despite our having gone to some trouble to raise funds by the encashment of saving certificates.

Not to anyone, Sir: only to those who already have money to spare in the bank. Privatisation of the public utilities is little more than a device for putting money into the pockets of those who already have it, without any productive effort on their part.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bitter taste of electricity share issue

From Mr A. R. Mordaunt

Sir, One of the advantages claimed by the Government in privatising many of the state industries has been to encourage wider share ownership. Despite the offers over recent years, the number of people holding shares in more than one of two companies has gone into decline (*Weekend Money*, November 24). This suggests that the public is generally more interested in making a quick buck than maintaining a balanced portfolio.

It was therefore encouraging to see the incentives written into the recent electricity offers and the priority to be given to local customers. The incentive cut-off points were both relatively modest, at 3,000 shares for start bonus and 1,500 for electricity vouchers.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 14: His Excellency Mr. Segiul Celac was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Romania to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr. G. Buiu (Minister Counsellor), Mr. Constantin Ghirda (Counsellor, Political), Lieutenant Colonel Gheorghe Rotaru (Military, Naval and Air Attaché), Mr. Alexandru Purculescu (First Secretary, Economic) and Mr. Alexandru Puscasu (First Secretary, Economic).

Mrs Celac was received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Lieutenant General Sir David Ramsbotham was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Aide-de-Camp General to Her Majesty.

Forthcoming marriages

Rev N.J. Aiken and Miss H.J. Swallow
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Aiken, of Kempford, Gloucestershire, and Hilary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Swallow, of Nether Poppleton, York.

Captain G.K. Bibby and Miss C.A. Lingham
The engagement is announced between Greville Bibby, Grenadier Guards, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Derek Bibby, and Gillian Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Ingham, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Mr A.S. Brown and Miss K.C. Elton
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffry Brown, of West Byfleet, Surrey, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Walter Elton, of Oxford.

Mr T.F. D'Alton and Miss J.K. Joy
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Major and Mrs Charles D'Alton, of Westbourne, West Sussex, and Jo, daughter of Anthony Joy, of Cowes, Isle of Wight, and Mrs Rosemary Joy, also of Cowes.

Mr J.B. Evans and Miss C.M. Massy
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs T.J. Evans, of South Glamorgan, and Clare, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Massy, of Chichester, West Sussex.

Mr N.R. Hall and Miss A.E. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of the late Mr Ruthven Hall and of Lady Ramsbotham, of Ovington, Hampshire, and Alison, daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip Wilson, of Ipswich, Suffolk.

Mr C.N.J. Haaser and Miss H.J. Reid
The engagement is announced between Charles Neil James, only son of Mr and Mrs Charles Haaser, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Heather Jayne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Reid, of Farhampton Common, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.R.A. Last and Miss J.C. Fleck
The engagement is announced between John, son of Captain and Mrs P.A. Last and Juliette, daughter of Mrs T.J. Potter, and stepdaughter of Mr T.J. Potter, Switzerland.

Mr M.J.B. Jones and Miss M.E. Lubkowska
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs T.B. Jones, of Epsom, Surrey, and Monika, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Lubkowska, of Ealing, London.

Mr T.M. O'Connor and Miss G.M. Bradbury
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr Thomas O'Connor, Hoare Abbey Lodge, Castle, Co Tipperary, and the late Mrs Sarah O'Connor, and Gina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bradbury, The Old Rectory, Edith Weston, Rutland.

Mr R.M.H. Preece and Miss C.M. Hooper
The engagement is announced between Roger, elder son of Squadron-Leader and Mrs John Preece, of Cambridge, and Nairobi, and Catherine, daughter of Commander and Mrs Charles Hooper, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr A.A. Protopsaltaris and Miss D.S.C. Nivison
The engagement is announced between Aristides, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony A. Protopsaltaris, of Athens, Greece, and Dominique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Nivison, of Chichester, West Sussex.

Mr N.W. Rivers and Miss A.L. Hunter
The engagement is announced between Neil, younger son of Mr and Mrs Bill Rivers, of Long Ditton, Surrey, and Anne, younger daughter of the late Group Captain Eric Hunter and Mrs Joan Hunter, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr M.A. Stewart and Miss S.M. Hourigan
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Sir Edward and Lady Stewart, of Brisbane, Australia, and Suzanne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Hourigan, of Brisbane, Australia.

Dr H.D.L. Stone and Miss C.A. Mayer
The engagement is announced between Howard, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.D. Stone, of Hundred Acres, Wickham, Hampshire, and Clarise, twin daughter of the late Mr Edward May and of Miss Odile Mayor, of Sion, Vaud, Switzerland.

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The engagement is announced between John, son of Captain and Mrs P.A. Last and Juliette, daughter of Mrs T.J. Potter, and stepdaughter of Mr T.J. Potter, Switzerland.

Birthdays

Royal Society vice-presidents

TODAY: Mr David Abell, chairman and chief executive, Suter, 48; Mrs Valerie Aggett, principal, Holborn Law Tutors, 40; Sir Denis Barnes, civil servant, 76; Mr Michael Boppre, theatre director, 52; Mr Clive Brittan, sportsman, 57; the Earl of Buckinghamshire, 46; Lord Croham, 73; Lord Durdant, 75; Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, 61; Miss Ida Haggard, violinist, 66; Mr Gunnar Häggöf, Swedish diplomat, 86; Sir Henry Hardman, civil servant, 85; Mr Joe Jordan, footballer, 39; General Sir Frank Kitson, 64; Deaconess Dr Una Kroll, writer and broadcaster, 65; Mr David McMurray, headmaster, Cundall School, 53; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, architect, 83; Miss Edna O'Brien, writer, 54; Professor M.H.P. Wilkins, biophysicist, 74.

TOMORROW: Professor Sir Harold Bailey, former professor of Sanskrit, 91; Mr N.C. Blamey, artist, 76; Sir Michael Caris, chairman, Trent Regional Health Authority, 61; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, science writer, 75; Judge Myrna Cohen, 73; Dr. F. G. Cooper, author, 61; the Hon Peter Dickinson, author, 62; Mr Jim Garner, of Chester, 38; Mr R.N. Gunn, former chairman, The Boots Company, 65; Sir Jasper Hollom, former deputy governor, Bank of England, 73; Lord Magdalene, 84; Lord Mottistone, 70; Sir Victor Pritchett, author and critic, 90; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 68; Sir John Thompson, former High Court judge, 83; Mrs Jacqueline Wedekind, principal, Inchbold School, Design, 59; Miss McWhirter, Ross McWhirter, Annabel Harry Goldsmith and Henry Smith, Mr Oliver Forge, best man.

The bride who was given in marriage by her father was attended by Sophie Von Wedekind, Rose Lancelot, Carl Goldsmith, Annabel Harry Goldsmith, Ross McWhirter, Annabel Harry Goldsmith and Henry Smith, Mr Oliver Forge, best man.

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Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit and keep yourselves in the love of Christ as you wait in His mercy to give you reward. John 16:21-23 CNB

BIRTHS

HOBBS - On December 1st, to Julia (neé Robinson) and Anthony, a daughter, Georgia Kate.

HEDGES - On December 8th, to Tess and Robert Hedges-Nunn, John, a daughter, Rose and Freddie.

HOBSON - On December 10th, to Ann and Mark, a daughter, Sophie Lucy, a sister for Hannah.

UNACKE - On December 13th, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Rose, a daughter, Oliver Military, a sister for Florence, half-sister for Robie.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

DIXON-GADSBY December 15, 1950 at St Giles Church, Islington, Patrick to Pauline. Now at Chalfont, St. Giles.

DEATHS

ADAMS - On December 10th 1950, suddenly in hospital with heart trouble, George (Bill) BSC Sons, aged 41, of 188a Southgate Road, Blackstock. Brother of Prue and Eddie, brother of Lorraine and daddy of Rachel and brother-in-law of Sandra. All services at Christchurch on Monday December 17th 1950, 9.30 am prior to interment at Blackstock Crematorium. Funeral Directors, tel: (0283) 61013.

ANDREW - On Friday December 14th 1950, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, John Leslie Anderson, formerly General Manager of The Standard Life Fund and Life Assurance Society. Deafly loved father of Neil, Linda, and the late Anne, husband and beloved father of Eileen Burns. Service at Mount Stuart Main Chapel on Tuesday December 18th at 11 am to which all friends are invited. Funeral Directors, tel: (0283) 63555.

BATEMAN - On December 13th, Ronald David Radford, M.B.E., aged 63 years, peacefully at home after a short illness. Much loved father of Angela and David, grandfather of Neil and Sandra. Service at Broom Crematorium, Burton-on-Trent at noon on Friday December 20th. Flowers only please. Wellings Funeral Directors, tel: (0283) 63555.

BELLOWS - On December 13th, Mrs. Nora Lees aged 87, wife of Bert, died under care of Elsie Bellis Funeral Services on Wednesday December 13th at 2 pm at All Saints' Church, Stamford Road, Bishop's Stortford. Funeral Directors, tel: (0283) 622200.

BURTON - On December 13th, Mrs. Elizabeth May (née Randle), widow of A.D. Burton, formerly Director of Burton's Stores, Chelmsford. Services at Chelmsford Cemetery on Friday December 20th at 2 pm. No flowers, donations to Cancer Research UK. Burial date, November 1991.

DAVIES - On December 13th, suddenly, John Gordon, Emeritus Professor of Theology, University. Much loved by Mary, Jane, Sally and Mark. Funeral Service at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Wokingham on Thursday December 20th at 2 pm. No flowers, donations to Cancer Research UK. Burial date, November 1991.

GOURBAN - On December 13th, Dr. Gourban, Executive Secretary of the International Confederation of Midwives, died at his residence in Paris, France. Husband Gabby and sons Alex and Paul. Funeral Mass at 1 pm on December 21st at St. Paul's Church, Chelmsford. Services at Chelmsford Cemetery, Thursday December 20th at 4 pm.

HORNBLA - On December 13th, William Oswald, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, beloved son of Lesley and Rosemary, at peace.

CREATION - At Southampton Crematorium on Friday December 20th at 2 pm. Family flowers only or donations may be made to the Cancer Care Trust, Tel: 0703 462440.

TAYLOR - On December 13th, at home, 7 The Paddock, Lorna, dearly loved wife of Peter and dear mother of Sally. Funeral at East Molesey, Surrey, on Wednesday December 19th.

WATKINS - On December 13th, Johnathan, widower of Dr. Johnathan Engelbert van Lammeren de Leuw, Service in Canada, Crematorium, Thursday December 20th at 4 pm.

WATKINS - On December 13th, Thérèse, after 101 full years. Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Thursday December 20th at 1 pm. Flowers to Autism Exhibit Funeral Services, 221 Upper Richmond Road, Putney.

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WATKINS - On December 13



Any questions: Alison Kite (right) and colleague, Pat Campbell-Hope

And your starter for ten pints ...

Many pubs are discovering that pulling in the punters can be a trivial pursuit

At exactly 8.30 the other evening, in the panelled back bar of a pub in Clerkenwell, north London, David Cracknell and three friends were asked to name the national character created by John Arbutin in 1712. Instantly, all four pencils scribbled the same name ... John Bull. The Crown Tavern quiz team had done it again.

All over Britain, one of the most popular winter sports, the pub quiz, is well under way. Some pub customers find all the intellectual stimulation they require in contemplating life as seen through the bottom of a pint glass. Quiz fans find fulfilment in naming the first woman to run a mile in under five minutes or the only bird to have nostrils at the tip of its beak - Diane Leather and the kiwi.

At least 100,000 people are thought to participate in these contests which, for the most part, take place in local pubs with a strong community feeling.

Last winter, the Crown team graduated from victory in their local Islington league in north London to win a national competition sponsored by Guinness which involved 800 pubs. The team members - Mr Cracknell, Michael Beswick, Ian Hutchings and Veronica Schwarz - are young economists and statisticians with an impressive collection of master's degrees, but, in this case, Mr Cracknell's ability to name the king or queen of England in any year since 1066 is probably of more immediate relevance.

Quiz games, they insist, have nothing to do with intellectual prowess. "All you need is an interest in trivia and a good memory," Mr Hutchings says.

In some places, the game is still an informal knockout between a handful of teams from local pubs with questions assembled by a retired teacher with a set of out-of-

date encyclopaedias. Increasingly, however, competitions are serious affairs, organised into leagues by the big breweries, and there is a sizeable industry supplying the insatiable appetite for questions.

Burns and Porter, Britain's biggest quiz organisation, runs 600 leagues for 16 breweries, supplying questions for 6,000 teams. After 14 years in the business, the company has just celebrated its two millionth quiz night. Its computer has a database of 126,000 pairs of questions and answers. Although the company employs researchers to compile questions as well as using a variety of experts, keeping a steady flow of new questions is a problem.

"There are only so many questions the ordinary man in the street can answer," says Alison Kite, Burns and Porter's sales manager. "Increasingly we have to turn to new information - current events, new films, new music."

The quiz has been part of pub life for many years. Tetley's, the Leeds brewery, has run a league for 22 years. At first, it found that marketing men tended to sneer at it, until they saw the potential. "It raises a lot of interest," the brewery spokesman says. "It sells a hell of a lot of ale, too."

Quiz men play for glory, not for gain. The prizes are usually restricted to a trophy for the pub, and perhaps a sweatshirt.

In most pubs, there is a quiet pride in having a successful quiz team. At the Railway at Marsden, near Huddersfield, the trophy for the current Tetley champions is in pride of place in the display cabinet. Paul Taylor, the landlord, is enthusiastic about pub games in general, but the quiz is slightly different. "I don't mean to sound snobbish," he says, "but it enables the more intellectual type of person to enjoy himself in the pub, too."

COLIN DUNNE

Rumbling back down the line

Trams are on the way back in a bid to speed town travel, Marcus Binney says

The government is to spend £1.5 billion on a railway tunnel linking Paddington and Liverpool Street stations. This is a heartening investment in public transport, but how much cheaper it would be to run trams along Oxford Street.

London's tramlines were torn up in the early Fifties because they were considered outdated, inefficient and an impediment to the growing volume of motor traffic. Now, as cars clog cities all over Europe, trams are seen as the alternative public transport system of the future.

About 40 British towns and cities, including Birmingham, Nottingham and Sheffield, are looking at the possibilities of trams. Manchester has started laying down tracks. Croydon is drawing up proposals with London Transport and British Rail.

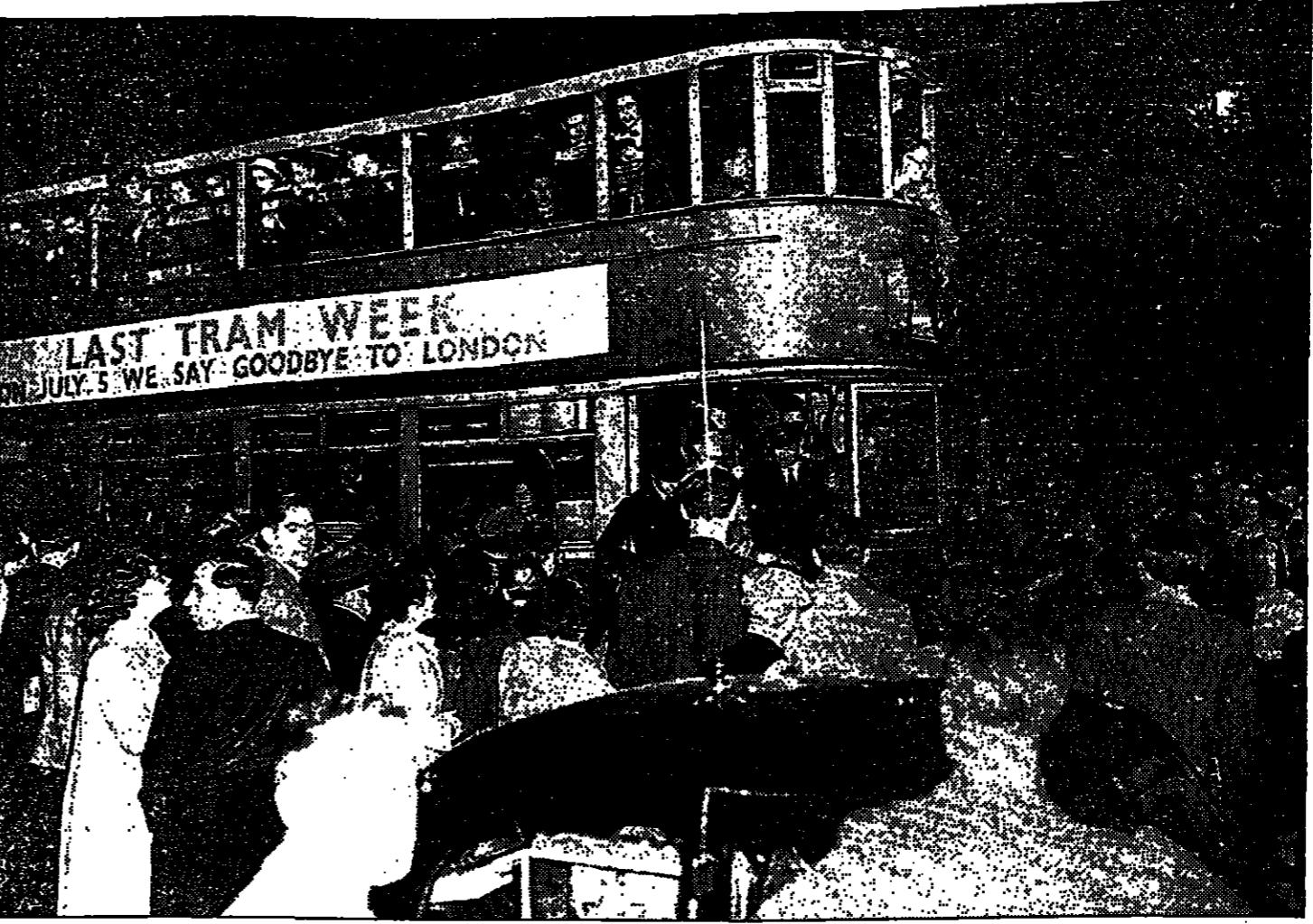
Hampshire county council has the most adventurous proposal: a tramway linking Gosport and Portsmouth under the harbour.

Nantes, in western France, has one of the newest systems. Its tramways, abandoned in 1958, returned in 1985 with a new track and 22 stops. Thanks to automation and a 50 per cent government grant towards infrastructure, the Nantes trams make a profit.

Basle and Zurich in Switzerland have long-established tram networks. Basle has nearly 40 miles of line and 300 vehicles.

The fundamental advantage of trams over buses is that they can be given priority over other road users, who inevitably ease into, and often park in, bus lanes. In Basle, trams have exclusive use of many streets in the city centre.

One of the weaknesses of buses in London is that cars wishing to turn left at junctions are allowed into the bus lane and can block it. Trams, by contrast, are often given their own lane at junctions with separate, priority



Farewell: crowds flock to see the last train run in central London in 1952. The system was abandoned for its "outmoded inefficiency"

signalling. With a clear path ensured, and speedy acceleration, trams can keep to timetables.

Automatic ticket machines ensure there is no delay caused by passengers buying tickets or showing passes, as happens on driver-only buses. As most trams consist of two carriages (some have three), each with two or three doors, large numbers of passengers can board and alight in a short time.

While new Underground stations opened in Grenoble in 1987, a new five-mile track with 23 vehicles carries 65,000 people a day, with trains running at four-minute intervals at peak times. The revolutionary new vehicles,

trams, being electrically driven, produce no fumes and so reduce pollution in city streets.

Most tram systems have a good safety record, even in pedestrian areas where people might not be expecting fast-moving vehicles. This is partly because tramlines are a warning to pedestrians and show exactly where the vehicles will pass, and partly because of the tram's distinctive rumble.

One of Europe's most modern systems opened in Grenoble in 1987. A new five-mile track with 23 vehicles carries 65,000 people a day, with trains running at four-minute intervals at peak times. The revolutionary new vehicles,

looking something like submarines, are the product of a partnership between the French government and industry. The main innovation is that the floors of the trams are almost at pavement level, so that pushchairs and even wheelchairs can be manoeuvred in with ease. A shallow ramp slides out at the press of a button to allow automatic wheelchairs to drive on. This has been achieved by putting most of the electrical works in the roof.

Street cables and supports are lighter and less obtrusive than in the past. In the city centre, the wires are suspended from neighbouring buildings. All the new passenger shelters have been provided by an agency in return for use of the advertising space.

The main resistance to trams comes from motorists concerned that the trams will limit road space and slow down traffic. But the cities which are introducing trams have decided it makes sense to reduce motor traffic.

Weighing up the merits of different transport systems for London could take years. Why not simply experiment with a single tramline, as in Nantes or Grenoble, perhaps in an area ill-served by London's Underground network, such as parts of Fulham, Chelsea and the South Bank?

Help: Mark Peterson, baker

There is nothing like a Danish

TAKING into consideration the cost of renting premises in central London, the idea of opening a bakery within two minutes walk of Harrods might seem like retail madness. But the Beverly Hills Bakery, the brainchild of Mark Peterson, is no ordinary cake shop. Mr Peterson, aged 25, intends to make the sending of a gift of fresh cakes anywhere in Britain a workable alternative to flowers or chocolates.

"I'd always thought about open-

ing a bakery, even when I was seven or eight years old," says Mr Peterson, who first came to Britain from Los Angeles, when he was 17. A year later, after completing his schooling, he returned to college in Pennsylvania, and later took degree at Durham university. After a year spent teaching English in Japan, he decided to set up his own business. He researched his project carefully.

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

- International concert: To celebrate United Nations Human Rights Day, 14 groups, including Ashanti drummers, the Wells Cathedral School and Ian Hall Singers, in a concert with a Christmas flavour.

St Pancras Church, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1. Tomorrow 7.30pm (071-630 8716).

- Toy delight: Exhibition of dolls, doll houses, cars, trains, soldiers, puzzles and teddy bears, plus craft toys for sale. Victorian Toy Theatre performance at 2pm.

Towner Art Gallery and Local History Museum, Eastbourne, Sussex (0323 411689). Today until Feb 17, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Closed Dec 26 and Jan 1.

- Jamie Galloway's Christmas collection and teddy bears concert: Today, the flautist with choir and orchestra in a card concert with audience participation. Tomorrow, 5pm, children's teddy bear concert.

Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Today 5.30pm and 8pm, £10.50-£22.50. Tomorrow £7.50 (£6.50 if carrying a bear).

- SOS Christmas concert: In aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics with Dame Vera Lynn, Leslie Crowther and Bob Monkhouse among the artists. Tomorrow, at 3.15pm, the Ernest Read family carol concert.

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1. Today 4pm and 7.30pm, matinee £5-£7-£11, evening £8-£10-£12. Tomorrow, £3.50-£11. Box office 071-928 8900.

- Bristol Christmas carnival: Christmas market from noon to 5pm. The Bristol Boys Choir at 6.30pm, decorated boat procession 7pm, jazz band and fireworks 8.30pm. Bristol City Docks, today, free.

- Durham Cathedral concert: Carol service in aid of the mentally handicapped today 2.30pm. Durham Cathedral.

- Dame Judi and Jeffrey Dench: A Feast of Words and Music, including "Winter" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Money raised will pay for 5,000 inner-city Christmas Day meals.

St James's Piccadilly, tomorrow. Tickets £15.27. Bookings 071-379 4444.

NEXT WEEK

- Edinburgh hospitals carols: Massed choirs of the city's hospitals.

Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031-228 7305). Wed 7.30pm, £2-£7.

- St Paul's carols: For congregation and choir, with the City of London Sinfonia.

St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4. Thurs, 6.30pm, free.

Mr Peterson's first plan was to open a shop in Los Angeles, selling Danish pastries. As his mother is Danish and he speaks the language, he went to Copenhagen and arranged an apprenticeship at the famous Arklaen bakery.

Six months later, he felt he knew just about everything about the production of these pastries and left for Los Angeles. "I needed sales and marketing experience," he says. "I'd never worked behind a counter or used a cash till." A year working for a bakery in Santa Monica and Beverly Hills taught him to cook American cakes, but also put paid to his plans to open a Danish pastry shop. Why? The secret of Danish pastries lies in the rolling of the dough, which demands vast work surfaces and a very large (and expensive) kitchen. As a result, Mr Peterson abandoned his plans for Los Angeles and flew to London. He arrived on April 1 this year and within two weeks had found a shop.

The shop, which opened on November 30, will double as a coffee bar. The style of the cakes is American — muffins, brownies and cookies — as well as Christmas cakes, pies and cheesecake. Special orders are welcomed. The ingredients are all fresh, free from additives and preservatives. There are also sugar-free and low calorie cakes.

PRICES start at 35p for a fresh muffin in the shop, up to £14, including delivery within London, for a basket of 16 small cakes and, out of London by post, £23 for a tin containing 18 pieces. Christmas cakes weighing 1.5lb cost £12. Personal shoppers can taste the cakes before they order.

Ironically, the cash to start the business came mostly from a settlement Mr Peterson received after contracting particularly virulent food poisoning while he was in Pennsylvania. It was an experience which has understandably left him very concerned about the quality and freshness of food.

GERALDINE RANSON

Beverly Hills Bakery & Gift Basket, 225A Brompton Road, London, SW3 2EZ (071-584 4401).



Say it with muffins, American-style: Mark Peterson and goodies galore

The ultimate free supplement: MEN – a user's guide (you'll be mad if you miss it)



New Woman. You can't be one without it.

One moment everything's normal and the ne

A stroke hits like lightning, damaging the brain, often leaving you paralysed, unable to speak or control bodily functions.

It's Britain's 3rd biggest killer, yet until now there has never been an organisation devoted solely to fighting it.

Now there is. STROKE. To join us or make a donation, please contact STROKE, CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ. Or telephone us on 071-490 7999.

STROKE
IT'S TIME TO STRIKE BACK

Stocking up with fillers

Mini-gifts are the most fun to buy and make a good test of ingenuity for adults

ONE of the enduring pleasures of Christmas is the chance to choose stocking fillers for children. One of the greatest tests of ingenuity is to pick imaginative mini-gifts to fill an adult sock.

Londoners can rely on Neal Street East to come up with instant solutions. Call the shop by 8pm on December 21 and the staff will gather 18 small gifts for girls or boys which must be collected no later than 4pm on Christmas Eve. The stockings are not included.

The children's selection costs £12.50 and includes, for example, an inflatable parrot, paper snake on stick, and Mr Potato Head game for boys; three-in-one doll, silk brocade purse and wooden dancing animal for girls. But your own selection could include a parrot mobile (£1.95), fortune-telling fish (5p), flying scorpion in a box (60p), furry jumping spider (£1.40), book of rub-off mini tattoos (5p) or plastic fangs (6p).

Neal Street East will also put together a selection for adults' stockings. Ten items cost £10.75 and include wooden shaving brush, clockwork bath toy, fish penknife and book of Chinese wisdom for men; or a paper wallet, water flowers, Chinese soap and chopsticks for women.

• **Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, London WC2 (071-240 0135).**

A good source of joky stocking fillers for children and adults is Crackers. As well as the more traditional items such as brightly coloured Disney snow globes (£4.95), there are contemporary ideas like the Celcielos 2 toy phone (£13.75), which rings like a real mobile telephone, personal



Victorian mask at the Museum Store in Covent Garden

organisers with wipe-clean covers (£14.95), bath mousse (£1.95), which can be modelled and then dissolved, and Turtle toothpaste (99p).

For adults there are a teeny Power Tie (£3.99), battery operated tiger paw massager (£5.99); joky Toffee Noses (£3.99), nose-shaped chocolates filled with caramel; bottle stoppers with duck heads (£2.99 for four); and Phoney Excuses (£19.99), which creates noises — door bells, a secretary's voice, static on the line — to play when a phone conversation needs to end swiftly.

• **Crackers is at Whiteleys of Bayswater, Queensway, London W2 (071-243 1601) and 62 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (081-741 1254).**

Gift-wrapped and monogrammed

Adding the personal touch can make all the difference to even the most ordinary of gifts; Nicole Swengley gives us the low-down on how to organise a highly individual Christmas



New light: an illuminated snowstorm featuring Santa (£18.99) at Frog Hollow, London W8, one of a range of snowstorms from £1.50 to £24.99

Adding a personal touch to presents is likely to double the pleasure they provide. Pre-Christmas frenzy can affect our choice, but a gift that has been chosen with care, rather than seized in desperation, is sure to be cherished. Apart from putting together your own selection in presentation box you might choose a personalised or initialled item, or arrange for a gift to be monogrammed or engraved. (Some of these services require a few days' notice, so be sure to check first.)

Some shops hold Christmas lists, so friends or family can order from a selection at the store. A few will deliver the presents to your door, but check with stores for details.

CHRISTMAS LISTS

• **Museum Store, 37 The Market, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 5760). Mon-Sat 10.30am-6.30pm; Sun 11am-5pm.** The gifts come from museum and gallery shops around the world and range in price from £1.50 to £100. Unusual presents for men include clay pipes (£2.50); Charles Rennie Mackintosh-style silver cufflinks, £24.95, and tie pin, £24.95. For women there are fans from the Paris Opera House, £12.95; jewellery, £2.95-£9.95, made from original Fifties American rockabilly items; children there are fossil sets, £12.99 from the Natural History Museum.

• **Other shops which hold individual Christmas lists:** Perfect Gifts (orders 0808 200 0000); Joanne Wood (free gift wrap service; gifts must be collected); Collier Campbell (gifts must be collected); Oggett (free gift wrap, but gifts must be collected); Thomas Goode (free gift wrapping; some free delivery).

OWN SELECTIONS

• **Habits of Man, 22 South Audley Street, Mayfair, London W1 (071-409 0158). Mon-Fri 9am-7pm; Sat 9am-5pm.** Wooden Shaker-style boxes (£21.50-£19.95) filled with foil-covered chocolate shapes, 75p each; mixed peppermints, £3.95; peach cooking sauce, £2.50; cucumber and dill vinegar, £2.50; hamonion stocks, £2.50 per bundle; whole restaurants, £11.95 per 570g jar.

• **General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 0411). Mon-Sat 9am-5pm; Wed to 7pm; Dec 24 closes 4pm. Buy a basket collection from 22.50 upwards and concoct your own theme. A "sporty" basket for men could include cricket-ball shaped hip flask, £14.95; tin of Fishing tea, £2.65; book on yachting or tennis, £2.65; an "animal" basket might contain a cat-shaped check book, £2.50; Bridgewater tammy mitt, £2.95; Scottie dog tapestry kit, £26.50.**

• **Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-629 1234). Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm; Sat 9am-5pm; Dec 24-25 9am-7pm; Dec 26 9am-4pm. Pick your own chocolate selection in a Selfridges presentation box, gift-wrapped free. Chocolates cost £2.95.**

• **Eliby, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1224). Mon-Sat 9am-5pm. Thurs to 7pm; in the Bath House, £15; gift baskets (£24.95-£26) with Hobson's herb sprays, £5.95; soap wrapped in herbs, £2.50; coloured sponges from 75p; French vegetable-based soaps from 95p; bath powder, 50p; bath oil filled with Nostalgia Belgian chocolates at £2.65 per kilo; £5.25 per 1kg; £10.50 per 1kg.**

Design-conscious stocking fillers for adults can be found at Maison. They include a chrome head pen (£27.95), Christmas tree-covered toothbrushes (£3.45) and a puzzle car whose parts can be detached and used as crayons (£3.95).

• **Maison, 917-919 Fulham Road, London SW6 (071-736 3121).**

Peepul Tree Trading has pocket handwarmers (£13.80), sparkly yo-yos (£5.80) and a wooden crocodile (£4.40). Nearby at Troika are colourful rubber braces (£26.95), lobster and duck floating bath plugs (£3.99 each), and

glastnost glasses (from £4.99), engraved by barbed wire.

• **Peepul Tree Trading, 291 New King's Road, London SW6 (071-736 9132); Troika, 62 New King's Road, SW6 (071-736 2401).**

The renowned chocolatiers, Charbonnel et Walker, takes the biscuit for this year's whackiest stocking filler. Its chocolate bone (£3.95) is suitable for adults, children and pets.

• **Charbonnel et Walker, 1 The Royal Arcade, 28 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-491 0939).**

N S

Painted in gold. Those which want a distinctive logo can have it painted or engraved on glass and suspended inside the shop window.

Another virtue of traditional shopfronts is that they bring back colour.

York has gone a stage further in drawing attention to detail by the skilful use of gilding.

At Hawkhead Country Ware, beading on the fanlight and trellis windows is picked out in gold on green. Acanthus leaves on the corners are also edged in gold. Crabtree & Evelyn on St Helens Square is fitted with brass sills and skirtings, and there is bevelled glass in every windowpane.

Next door, Scarborough and Co has picked out the ropework colonnades in alternating pale blue, white and gold, while the frieze above it is lightly marbled.

Dark blue stained glass has been introduced at the sides of the windows, with elaborate stars, like garter badges, engraved in the corners.

Yet, just as York's ancient streets are looking better than they have done in years, a new threat has arisen in the form of the uniform business rate.

The planners are concerned that there will be closures and renewed pressure for louder, brasher shopfronts.

Recently, Rochas, the natural beauty specialist, applied to replace an award-winning arched shopfront with an uncompromisingly modern style — a step that seems out of character for a "green shop".

encourage them to use these as models.

Because illuminated facias and lettering are banned in streets such as Stonegate, the art of signwriting has been revived.

Some shops prefer the emphasis of individual, three-dimensional letters, but it is the painted names in roman typefaces that look the best, particularly when

MARCUS BINNEY

£5 each; numerals and lower-case letters, £1 each; signatures about £20. Suitable glassware for engraving includes the Regency range — wine cooler, £22.95; ice bucket, £19.75; vase, £19.75. There is also a point Irish tumbler, £14.95; glass, £16.75; tumbler, £14.75; goblet, £20.75; tankard, £16.70.

• **Crackers, 82 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (081-741 1254); Whitelys of Baywater, Queensway, London W2 071-243 1601; Barnes Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm; Whitelys: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm.** Hand-painted gifts for children include framed "I'm a picture", £19.95 and £24.95; Mason Pearson hairbrushes, £18.95 and £24.50; door plaques, £24.95; glass boxes, £19.95; red metallic lock-up boxes with key, £16.50. All can be hand-painted with a monogram name.

• **Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-499 2623); The Perfume Shop, 100 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-730 0000); Tupperware, 10am-5.30pm; Thurs 10am-7pm; Dec 24 closed all day. Solid silver and silver-plated gifts engraved from £12. Silver napkin rings from £27; silver mugs, £15; silver-plated whisky flasks £29.95; crystal bowls from £16.95; solid silver gift boxes with £14.95; gift-wrapped gift boxes from £14.95; pif boxes from £38.50; William Comyns tulip-shaped goblets, £300.**

• **Trolley, 82 New King's Road, London SW1 (071-736 2401). Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 10am-6pm.** Engraving on request, approximately £22.50 for three initials. Monogrammed desk cufflinks in a silver-plated egg, £24.95; fountain and ballpoint writing sets in retro-style tin with sliding lid, £27.50; pewter hip flask from £19.95; business card cases in brass from £27.95, or £31.95 from £29.95; silver plated goblets from £25 on crystal, £20 on metal.

• **Joanne Wood, 103 Fulham Road, London SW1 (071-734 1224). Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Wed to 8pm; Sat to 7pm.** Hand-engraving service is in the British Crystal department on the second floor. Up to three initials £10 on crystal; £27.50 on silver; £30 on gold; £35 on Pif. £15 on metal. Business cards £20 on metal; credit cards from £25 on crystal, £20 on metal. Also embossed initials from £21.15, motifs from £3.20.

• **Gemma, 112 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 0720). Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm; Sat 9am-5pm.** Gold stamping service for leather items £245 for three initials; £300 for cross-stitch initials. Leather goods £20 from £22. Men's wallets from £26. Personal organisers from £21. Silver items can be engraved at £18 for three initials or £15 per letter. Typical items for engraving include silver photo frames, £19.95; leather dish £24.95; a man's silver hairbrush, £18.95. Gemma also has a glass engraving service for decanters and glassware bought at the store.

• **Joanne Wood will hand-paint initials on china teacup mug, £18 with one initial, matching soap dish, £18.50.**

• **Mappin & Webb, 108 Regents Street, London W1 (071-322 8297) and branches. Mon-Sat 9.30am-6pm.** Engraving in a variety of hand-made items including own handwriting, on items such as glass decanters from £27.95 or from £27.60 round; two gift-boxed flutes, £24. Also silver ballpoint, £25; steel gold plate or gun-metal hip flask from £18.95; leather goods from £26.95; bath mats from £26.95; sheets start at £22.95; towels from £24.95; stud boxes from £24.95 in black calfskin, on stud boxes from £24.95 on three-drawer jewellery boxes, £134, and on beauty boxes, £245 (plus embossing charge). Estimates available by telephone and for personal shoppers.

• **Perfect Glass, 5 Park Walk, London SW10 (071-351 5342). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm; Wed to 8pm; Dec 24 closes 4pm. Also at Cheltenham Farmers' Market, Sydney Street, Cheltenham (071-378 8514). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Order by Dec 21 for engraving service. Upper-case initials**

• **Tiffany, 15 Victoria Grove, London NW8 (071-549 5493). Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm; Sat 9am-5pm; Dec 24 closes 4pm.** Also at Cheltenham Farmers' Market, Sydney Street, Cheltenham (071-378 8514). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Order by Dec 21 for engraving service. Upper-case initials

• **Wren, 100 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-741 1254). Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 10am-6pm.** Engraving on leather items including leather wallets from £24.95; leather headrest, £24.95.

• **Liberty needs five to ten days to initial or monogram a dressing gown, bath mat, towel, sheets, pillowcases, £21.95-£24.95; names £15. Pillows, £18.95; eight letters £22.**

• **Dressing gowns, £26-£21.95; guest towels from £25.95; pillowcases from £21.95; sheets start at £22.95; £27.95; sheets start at £22.95 (single) and from £27.95 (double). In the stationery department, a leather wallet for £16.95 is available with Cross ballpoints or fountain pens.**

• **Perfect Glass, 5 Park Walk, London SW10 (071-351 5342). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm; Wed to 8pm; Dec 24 closes 4pm. Also at Cheltenham Farmers' Market, Sydney Street, Cheltenham (071-378 8514). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Order by Dec 21 for engraving service. Upper-case initials**

• **Tiffany will engrave most silver items at three to four days' notice. From £25 per letter or initial. Tiny heart-shaped perfume flask, £24; swan bookmarker, £24; bookend, £24; leather strap, £40; Swiss Army pocket knife, £65; whistle key-ring, £20.**

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Changing face: York

New faces for old facias

FOR years, traditional shopfronts have resembled an endangered species, soon to be remembered only on Christmas cards and postcards.

In town after town, chain stores and multiples have punched out the ground floors of historic buildings to make way for floor-to-ceiling plate glass and plastic facias.

Enter York's Stonegate and you are in a different world. Here is one of the finest runs of traditional shopfronts in England. Georgian, Regency and Victorian fronts are each tailored to the building above. Only when you look more closely is it apparent that much of this is a brilliant piece of plastic surgery on a street which has endured the architectural equivalent of a motorway pileup.

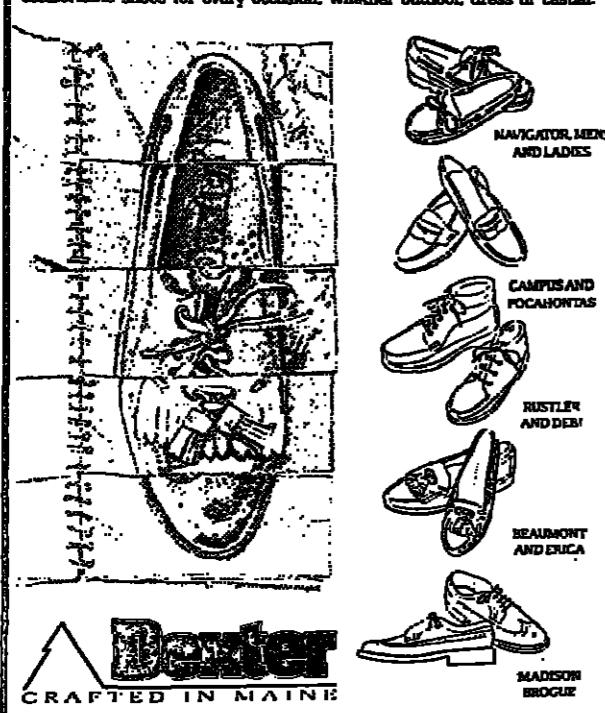
The Next shop, for example, is housed behind a variety of small paned wooden fronts, all painted a smart royal blue. A few years ago, this was a typical Sixties-style showroom with a 50ft long curtain glass wall set sharply back from the facade above.

What you see in York is the result of a 20-year campaign begun under the guidance of June Harries, who is revered as one of the best conservation officers in any English town.

The crux of the campaign was to persuade shop owners to return to wood: painted softwoods, not stained hardwoods. First came the insistence on a stall riser — a panelled front on the bottom of the shop windows. This brings the base of the window up to table

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'Vintage' wine: how old would you like it to be?

There are two reasons why that treasured liquid carefully laid down in the cellar could taste sour.

The first is that there were faults in its bottling or storage. The second, that the wine is fake. Quality wines are not sampled for generations, which gives a faker ample time to make his getaway. He also has on his side the fact that few people can tell the nectar from the naff.

Misgivings remain as to the authenticity of four bottles of Twenties Château Petrus opened at a recent wine tasting given by Hardy Rodenstock, the German collector and dealer. "To me they didn't look like wines of those vintages, being all too much alike. Normally in wines of that age you get substantial differences," says David Peppercorn, an international consultant based in London, who attended the tasting.

During the decade in question, the "château" was small and obscure, with no documentary records. "A lot of châteaux have no accurate records of where their wines went, especially during the war," Mr Rodenstock says.

Even at the best of times quality wine has always offered difficulties of definition. After sustaining a poor crop, growers have been known to improve, or pad out, their inferior products by adding grapes from nearby vineyards. Now, with wine values on the increase, the temptation to fake potions is greater than ever.

Scientific methods of testing are fallible, carbon dating of deposits being reliable for a limited number of dates. Anyway, some people could fake a given vintage by adding the necessary amounts of radioactive carbon, says Geoffrey Taylor of Corkwise, a chemist who is often employed by the Wine Standards Board. The new French technique of "nuclear magnetic resonance" can confirm where grapes were grown, but not when.

Mr Peppercorn says owners of several leading châteaux are concerned at the increase of suspicious requests to record old bottles. "Nowadays they want a pretty good reason for obliging, because being recorded and labelled on their premises confers a certain authenticity."

Over the past decade, however, a few fakers have been unmasked, often due to slip-ups on their own part. An overseas client sold at Christie's a jeroboam of 1924 Mouton Rothschild, the first wine

produced by Baron Philippe de Rothschild. It was bought for several thousand pounds by a Cheshire-based wine merchant, who took it away on credit. Having got it home, he noticed that the jostling from train journey had left no sign of sediment, says Michael Broadbent, Christie's wine expert. "Rather riskily, he opened it. It was red ink." Later it transpired that the bottle had been on display in a restaurant.

A Kent man called C.P. Lutman got away with faking relatively cheap vintage port for two years. His successes included selling bottles through Phillips in Oxford. Two bottles were intercepted at Christie's South Kensington, following suspicions voiced by Sotheby's. "We had serious concern over two bottles because the wax seal at the top was not traditional wine wax, but candle wax dyed black," says David Molyneux-Berry, to whom the bottle was consigned. "I thought perhaps a private individual had decided to wax the bottle, because the wax sometimes comes off, but why dye it black?" Having

written to the man, asking him for more information about the bottle, Mr Molyneux-Berry put them in Sotheby's cellar. Then, one Monday morning, there was an enormous cracking noise. One of the bottles had popped its cork, causing the bottle to bounce around the room. The expert grabbed it and tasted some of the remains. "It was Lambrusco, an Italian semi-sparkling wine, mixed with sugar and a bit of yeast," Mr Molyneux-Berry says.

When the police visited Mr Lutman, they caught him red-handed, concocting another batch from supermarket wine. After a court case, he was fined.

The biggest *caveau célèbre*, however, surrounds a bottle of 1787 Château-Lafite, said to have been ordered by Thomas Jefferson, the American president, during a trip to France. The bottle fetched a world record at Christie's of £105,000 in 1985, selling to Malcolm Forbes, the American millionaire. Mr Rodenstock, the vendor, refuses to say where he found it, other than in Paris. The sale has been haunted by misgivings.

However, let us return to your cellar at home. Say the bottle selected tastes glorious. Before you toast your connoisseurship, or luck, consider this: apart from essences capable of imitating the oak from an old cask, the latest equipment on the faker's list is a machine which is believed to age wine by sound waves.

The only answer is to make sure you buy a foolproof provenance along with that bottle.

ings, not least from the Jefferson museum in Charlottesville.

"We cannot make any connection between Jefferson and that particular bottle, and others which have been sold since then," says Cinder Stanton, director of research at the museum last week. "I am not particularly impressed with Christie's research."

The debate focuses on the fact that, although Jefferson kept records of all wine purchases obsessively, there is no record of this. Also, the initials "Th. J." wheel-engraved on the bottle, do not "quite fit any of the forms used or specified by Jefferson", according to Miss Stanton.

We will never know the truth about the Jefferson wine as, having been placed under bright lights in Forbes's museum of presidential history, its cork shrank and fell into a liquid which was by then stewed.

However, let us return to your cellar at home. Say the bottle selected tastes glorious. Before you toast your connoisseurship, or luck, consider this: apart from essences capable of imitating the oak from an old cask, the latest equipment on the faker's list is a machine which is believed to age wine by sound waves.

The only answer is to make sure you buy a foolproof provenance along with that bottle.

Man with a nose for a rarity

The two biggest questions in the wine world are: Who is Hardy Rodenstock, and where does he make his extraordinary wine finds?

The German national first hit the headlines in 1985 as the man who discovered the Thomas Jefferson bottle of Château-Lafite which sold for a record-breaking £105,000 at Christie's.

Since then, his triumphs have included unearthing 100 cases of 19th century classified-growth Bordeaux in Venezuela, for which he has said he paid nearly \$1 million (£515,000) in cash, and a rare bottle bearing the 18th century coat of arms of the Sauvage family in Leningrad.

According to Stephen Brownell, of Farr Vintners in London, Mr Rodenstock is "the most famous wine collector in the world". His connoisseurship is certainly formidable: he has been known to identify numerous difficult vin-

tages correctly while blindfolded during tastings.

The problem is that many of Mr Rodenstock's stocks appear on the market without a provenance, or history. The Jefferson bottle, he says, came with a bulk purchase of 100 bottles from Paris, but he refuses to say exactly where.

As the current issue of the *Wine Spectator* magazine says, he "continues to raise as many questions as he answers about the authenticity of the rare wines he pulls out of his cellar".

Michael Broadbent, the head of wine at Christie's, says people "think his wine is too good to be true", although in his opinion it is absolutely authentic. "I'd love to know more myself about where he gets them from." An Essen-born beer drinker and, he once said, manager of "easy-listening music similar to the Carpenters" in the Seventies, Mr Rodenstock had a "road to Damascus" experience in

1976 after drinking some excellent bottles of Bordeaux at a friend's house, and within two years he had left the music business to start collecting and dealing in wines. Now he has cellars all over the world, and is constantly on the move, selling to a coterie of industrialists in Germany and Japan. Since 1980 he has held what have become legendary wine tastings.

Apart from being under fire by *Wine Spectator*, which continues to question both his Jefferson bottle and some of his Château Petrus vintages, the other intriguing aspect about Mr Rodenstock is that he has just initiated a dispute with an erstwhile friend to whom he sold some bottles on condition they were never sold again. The friend apparently tried to consign them to Christie's.

S.J.C.



David Molyneux-Berry: "There was a cracking noise, a bottle was bouncing around the room"

Window on past devotions

Icons



Plaque paradox: Maria Andipa, an icons specialist, says: "Atheists want something spiritual"

THE Greek word *eikona* means an image; in the art world it is used to denote those gaunt, often lugubrious, devotional portraits, usually painted on wooden panels in strong colours and gold leaf, which decorate Greek and Russian Orthodox churches.

However, collectors and devotees are acquiring the taste fast, and London is the hub of icon-dealing in the west. Maria Andipa, a Greek Orthodox who runs the Icon Gallery in Knightsbridge, London, says she regularly meets atheists "who want to have an icon in the house, mainly for its spiritual qualities". The first icon, she says, was an outline of Christ's features, imprinted on a towel as he mopped his face. Luke is said to have been among the first painters of the Madonna and Child and a painting attributed to him, *Hodigitria* ("Pointer of the Way") was quickly reproduced by icon painters. Five of these are now in Greece.

As Christianity spread, so icons became objects of veneration, even fetishism. Miraculous qualities were claimed of them as protectors against disasters, and people took to washing icons and drinking the water as medicine, or carrying about tiny shavings from them as a talisman. This practice continued in Byzantium until the 8th century, when it was declared idolatrous and prohibited for more than 100 years. An official band of "icon-

oclasts" seized and destroyed every icon they could find.

Iconoclasm is just as active today. Think of Romania. Mrs Andipa's greatest treasure is from Romania: an interpretation of the Virgin, swathed in tatty lace and five rows of real pearls blackened by candle smoke. It was smuggled out of the country by a Romanian woman whose priest had snatched it from the rubble of a church destroyed by Nicolae Ceausescu, the former president.

What gives this icon (probably 18th century) its inevitable quality for Mrs Andipa are the accretions of intense spiritual devotions, performed by so

many over the years, which appear to hang about it like incense. "For me," she says, "the aura of an icon is more important than the look." This may sound fanciful, but not only did an icon provide a focus for devotions — "a window to Paradise" in Mrs Andipa's phrase — but its creation was an act of devotion, requiring preparation in the form of prayer and fasting.

Originality and innovation

play such a small part in the history of icons that dating and identification present problems, and there are fakes aplenty. Collectors prepared to travel will find many icons for sale in eastern Europe,

real cars and speedboats with toys and models.

Wednesday: Chinese ceramics and works of art at Phillips in London; and book sales by Dominic Winter in Swindon, 11am and 2pm, and Michael Newman in Plymouth at 2pm.

Thursday: Flotsam and jetsam of the pop and entertainment world at Christie's South Kensington, 10.30am and 2pm. It is hoped Harrison Ford's bullwhip will raise up to £5,000 for the Institute of Archaeology.

Friday: An excellent impression of Hokusai's great print *Red Fuji* is expected to make up to £80,000 at Sotheby's 10.30am. Postman Pat takes over Phillips at 11am with the sale of 150 of the original drawings by Joan Hickson. At noon, Capes Dunn of Manchester combines a sale of

their estimate of £100,000 and went unsold at Sotheby's.

Preview

• Today: Gentlemen are requested to behave in a seemly fashion during the sale of 400 lots of toy trains at Lacy Scott in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, at 11am.

Monday: The 2pm sale at Christie's South Kensington, will no doubt end in tears since it, too, is devoted to model trains, including the Marklin O'Gauge "Cock O' The North" at up to £20,000.

Off east: The scandalous letters of Lady Caroline Lamb and Lord Byron failed to reach

their estimate of £100,000 and went unsold at Sotheby's.

At 4pm, Wealden Auction Galleries begins an 800 lot mix-mash-gatherant antique sale in the Vestry Hall at Cranbrook, Kent. There is yet another final session of Tom Keating's fake paintings at Bonhams at 6pm.

Tuesday: An excellent impression of Hokusai's great print *Red Fuji* is expected to make up to £80,000 at Sotheby's 10.30am. Postman Pat takes over Phillips at 11am with the sale of 150 of the original drawings by Joan Hickson. At noon, Capes Dunn of Manchester combines a sale of

real cars and speedboats with toys and models.

Wednesday: Chinese ceramics and works of art at Phillips in London; and book sales by Dominic Winter in Swindon, 11am and 2pm, and Michael Newman in Plymouth at 2pm.

Thursday: Flotsam and jetsam of the pop and entertainment world at Christie's South Kensington, 10.30am and 2pm. It is hoped Harrison Ford's bullwhip will raise up to £5,000 for the Institute of Archaeology.

Friday: An excellent impression of Hokusai's great print *Red Fuji* is expected to make up to £80,000 at Sotheby's 10.30am. Postman Pat takes over Phillips at 11am with the sale of 150 of the original drawings by Joan Hickson. At noon, Capes Dunn of Manchester combines a sale of

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THURSDAY 27 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.
TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING
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ANDREW WATKIN driving CRISPIN STEELE-PERRINS (imp)
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Handel Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Bach Sleepers Awake (Lloyd Webber Advert)
Afflitione Caecus (Curtis) The Four Seasons
Città di LONDON SEVIGNY CITY OF LONDON SEVIGNY
ANDREW WATKIN driving CRISPIN STEELE-PERRINS (imp)
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The mystery of the Sunday club murders

It is Sunday evening, a few days after Christmas. The car is curled up on the sofa, the cousins have finally left, and the answering-machine is set to intercept calls without so much as a ring. Poached eggs on toast and a dollop of Christmas pudding, smothered in brandy butter, have been washed down with half a bottle of claret. The blow of defeat at the new Trivial Pursuit is now a distant blur. Sinking deeper into the cushions, you press the television remote control to enjoy the last essential ingredient of perfect seasonal bliss: a cold-blooded whodunit.

So George Orwell might begin, if he was around today, to rewrite his celebrated 1946 essay, *Decline of the English Murder*. Dark winter evenings just would not be the same without the weekly appointment with death, and this year promises to be a bumper vintage. Next weekend the BBC unwraps its new television sleuth, Ngaio Marsh's slick 1940s Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn (his case: bizarre murder of nude artist's model). Ruth Rendell's ubiquitous Chief Inspector Wexford has a two-hour special on Christmas Eve (famous flautist found drowned in icy lake). A new London Weekend Television series of Agatha Christie's Poirot starts on Sunday evenings in January; the sanguine Inspector Morse is back in February, and so it goes on.

The popular appeal of the whodunit is itself a mystery. Perhaps a clue lies in its scheduling: normally on Sunday evenings, sandwiched somewhere between *Songs of Praise* and the news. As Orwell observed, Sunday was always the day for settling down in an armchair to enjoy a grisly murder in the paper. The old poisoning dramas made comforting reading because they were the product of a stable society, when crimes at least had strong emotions behind them.

The snag these days is that real murder can no longer be seriously

Why are we gripped by the whodunits?

William Cash

Suspects that there is more to this case than meets the eye

enjoyed as one of the fine arts. While a villain such as Dr Crippen was memorable because his crime had tragic qualities that could excite pity for both victim and murderer, the modern murder usually lacks cunning or depth of feeling. In fact it often appears meaningless. Although we are swamped by images of death in the newspapers or on television, there are rarely any explanations.

Watching a murder whodunit is very different. It is Aristotelian not only in linear structure but also in cathartic effect. To begin with, we know what is going to happen. We may not know who the killer is, but we know a heinous crime will be committed.

"The corpse must shock", W.H. Auden wrote in an essay on detective fiction, "not only because it is a corpse, but also because, even for a corpse, it is shockingly out of place, as when a dog makes a mess on the drawing room carpet."

Next, a logical sequence of events must follow, in which guilty appear innocent and innocent guilty. Accepted moral values are shattered, until Poirot rounds up the suspects in the library and solves the crime. The criminal is exonerated, fear dispelled, the moral order reaffirmed. So detectives such as Morse perform a useful therapeutic role, showing that justice will win in the end.

Colin Dexter, creator of Inspector Morse, admits that one attraction of the whodunit is the vicarious satisfaction of sitting on the outside and observing some

injustice. "Like at the end of a crossword puzzle you get a reversion to the moral equilibrium. The business of solving things in a neat unequivocal way is extremely important."

The oldest detective story is Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. The murder story has always thrived in societies like our own, which have historically always had trouble enforcing law and order. Elizabethan England, for example, had no standing army or police force. When a murder was committed, someone had to be quickly executed in front of the largest audience possible to demonstrate that the cancer had been removed. In the Victorian age, Jack the Ripper became a legend precisely because he was never caught.

Death has always been a popular holiday sport. When the Romans watched gladiators maul each other to death, part of the thrill was walking away with the confirming feeling of a survivor. Witnessing the death of a stranger was a reassuring theatrical drama giving a momentary sense of immortality as well as a sharp reminder of mortality.

As John Carey has observed, religion is mankind's answer to death. Not many people spend Sundays in church these days, but an estimated 11 million will settle down to the ritual of watching Inspector Alleyn on BBC 1 next Sunday evening. This will be followed by an *Everyman* religious programme that the majority will doubtless switch off. The emotional comfort we will get from seeing Alleyn solving a crime — finding an answer to death — is more than nostalgia for a vanished social order. It is a form of spiritual experience.

But the television whodunit has to adhere to a strict formula.

Marsh's *Artists in Crime* fits the classic mould precisely by taking place in a closed society where the possibility of an outside murderer is excluded. The location of the drama must be as far removed from reality as possible, for if we

are to gain comfort from a murder, we have to know the suffering is imagined, not real. The genre requires that we never see the grisly action of the murderer at work. By the time we discover who the murderer is, his or her human qualities are so enmeshed in the rich period and domestic atmosphere that it is difficult not to feel empathy with him or her.

Orson Welles's version of *Macbeth* was flawed because he was shown hacking away at his victims with a 12-inch kitchen knife, while

Shakespeare preferred to leave the audience just with his bloody hands and pitiful guilt. As Colin Dexter says: "Morse is almost sad at the end actually to arrest the perpetrator of the crime."

The police have traditionally had trouble gaining credibility in detective fiction. The eccentric amateur, such as Lord Peter Wimsey, has always been more fashionable. To get round the "PC Plod" stereotype, television police inspectors are now as canny and cleverly civilised as their amateur



Detective in a therapeutic role? Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, as played by David Suchet



Wonders with tatty roles: Carol Burns and Graham Christopher

DANCE

Raymonda
Covent Garden

SHOULD the Royal Ballet be importing Laurent Hilaire from Paris to dance two performances of *Raymonda*? Some performers as well as dancers are unhappy about the high number of guest stars at Covent Garden. But if the company has any other dancer suited in height, temperament, experience and ability to partner Sylvie Guillem, it has been keeping remarkably quiet about him.

Their performance together on Thursday was dazzling. *Raymonda's* big solo is based on Hungarian rhythms, with an implied mixture of moods to match its alternation of languor and speed. Altyayai Asylmuratova, two weeks earlier, had brought out more strongly the reserved pride; Guillem put the chief emphasis on the fiery exhilaration. Both interpretations are rewarding when they are as well danced as by these two.

Guillem's crisp exactness of finish is matched point for point by Hilaire. Not many dancers can rival his blending of brilliance and elegance. While his legs are accomplishing bold and intricate patterns, his arms shape themselves into voluptuous arcs; and

JOHN PERCIVAL

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Churchill's stalking horse

"There was a strange miasma about the early 1980s. I was making Caravaggio just as Winston Churchill's bill came along, and he used me as one of the stalking horses. At the same time, the arts minister, Grey Gowrie, was coming to see me on the set, saying 'Great, great, this looks wonderful'. You see the anomalies I had to deal with?" Derek Jarman, the uncompromising independent director, talks to John Walsh in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

THEATRE

In the Doghouse Warehouse, Croydon

FOLLOWING breathlessly on the heels of *The Clink* at Riverside Studios, another mock-Elizabethan romp tumbles on to the London stage, full of deliberate anachronisms, as well as the usual droll naughtiness and plenty of knowing nudges in the ribs of history.

On Wednesday, delighted screams from Croydon goodwives greeted the occasional verbal ruderities and the sight of a man in underwear, by hen-party standards the first scene goes with a swing. But after Sir Courtly Gallant has had his celestial globes fondled by Luscious Lucinda (who is not what she seems) and has been stripped to his longjohns, the merriment fizzles out in a rambling, disjointed and,

modern, not even pastiche Elizabethan. The satirical tone is gauged by the portrayal of

Indigo Jones as a camp Welsh

designer in artist's smock, dying

to get into interior decorating.

Shakespeare is initially presented as a naif Midlander with a

Black Country accent. The perfor-

mance brilliantly preserves the

surprise element that provides the play's first (and last) *coup de théâtre*.

If the writing at times suggests

an abandoned sitcom (an *Up Your Blackfriars*, perhaps) taken from

the author's bottom drawer, the

performance does at least do all it

can to make it seem worthwhile.

On Michael Pavlik's Tudor

stage, a thrust platform backed by

a traverse curtain, Ted Craig

directs a tirelessly enthusiastic

cast.

Not for the first time, Okon Jones's style and personality fill out feeble material. Carol Burns

strives manfully as a north country lesbian feminist (another indication of the writing's freshness

and originality).

Graham Christopher (Indigo

Jones and Sir Courtly), David

John (a boy actor) and Frank Ellis

(Ben Jonson) do wonders with

their tatty roles. Of Linda

Spurrier, suffice it to say that

her stint with the Royal Shake-

spear Company has paid unfore-

seen dividends....

MARTIN HOYLE

Freedom without the props

CONCERT

Fidelio Festival Hall

THE South Bank this week has been shadowing the Royal Opera's current repertory, with two concert performances of *Die Fledermaus* followed on Thursday by one of *Fidelio*. Beethoven's must be the opera most often done as a concert piece, for the good reason that it works that way: the musical numbers are nearly all moments of stasis set into a drama proceeding in speech. And, as this performance proved, one can disconnect the music from the play altogether.

The programme promised a truncated version of the dialogue, but in fact not a word was said, except, of course, in the melo-drama sequence. It was perhaps odd that Fernando should recognise Florestan with astonishment when both had their eyes fixed firmly on the conductor, but better than this is the kind of half-acting in concert dress we often see.

The conductor who was the object of the principals' riveted attention — and of the orchestra's, and of the audience's — was Lorin Maazel, whose repertory of tense, angular gestures, springs and crouches drew playing of keen colour and emphatic address, at tempos that were always brisk. One benefit of a concert performance, of course, is that one can hear the orchestra more clearly, in part simply because one can see it. This was an occasion for appreciating the great variety of texture and instrumental resource the score contains: the growling sombre sounds of trombones, bassoons and double-basses in the second-act Leonore-Rocco duet, for instance, were very much to the fore. Orchestral, this was a performance at the furthest possible remove from the golden blending of Bernard Haitink's recent recording, but leanness was made an abundant advantage.

Another happy feature of the performance was the singing of the Philharmonia Chorus and Ambrosian Singers, a large body which was yet able to operate over a wide range of tone from cold pianissimos to full splendour, and which could also put the words across distinctly, even at low volume. Diction was not always so clear among the soloists. Luana Devol as Leonore offered a beautiful tone, warm but clear, and admirably sustained over a wide pitch range. She was, though, short, perhaps fearing a tendency to falter under pressure. Thomas Moser as Florestan, too, was rather quiet, though not in his opening clarion call. If he could gain a little strength, while keeping the delicacy of a Mozart tenor, this would become a remarkable performance. Lilian Watson was a delightful Marzelline, Kurt Rydl a dark Rocco, giving the character an apt surineness, and Monte Pederson a fiery Pizzaro. He is the only one currently singing his role in the theatre; it showed.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Saturday Review, page 20

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BBC 1

- 7.00 Crystal Tipps and Alistair.** Cartoon about a girl and her dog (1) 7.05 Janosch's Story Time. Cartoon series (1) 7.30 Touch Turd. Cartoon adventures of the carapace cavalier (1) 7.35 Babes. Adventures of the famous elephant
8.00 Breakfast Series. Another episode from the five disparate serials - *The Kitchen Crew*, *Single Tales*, *Zounds*, *Runners* and *NiceCap* - all starring Caroline Berry, John Biggs, Lucy Jenkins and William Petrie 8.35 *BraveStarr* (1)
8.00 Going Live! Young people's magazine hosted by Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene. *EastEnders* star Sophie Lawrence presents the grand final of stage one in the talent contest to find the best young entertainer in Britain. Guests include Linda Robson and Pauline Quirk from *Birds of a Feather* and there is a review of feature films being released for the Christmas season 12.12 Weather

12.15 *Grandstand* introduced by Bob Wilson. The last up (subject to alteration) 12.20 Cricket highlights of the World Series Cup fourth round game between England and New Zealand in Brisbane; 12.30 *Skiing*: the men's downhill championship from Val Gardena. The commentator is David Vine; 12.50 *Racing* from Ascot (the HSS Hinde Stakes hurdle); 1.20 (*Youngmans Long Walk* hurdle); and

1.55

(the SGB Handicap chase). With commentary by Peter O'Sullivan, Julian Wilson, Richard Pitman and Peter Scudamore. 1.00 News; 1.30 and 2.05 Show Jumping: the Olympia Horse Show from London. The commentators are Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Heyde; 2.50 *Rugby League*: a round three match in the Regal Trophy. Highlights of the first half and live coverage of the second. Ray French describes the action. 3.45 *Tennis*: the semi-final of the Grand Slam Cup from Munich. Mark Cox and Dan Maskell are the commentators; 4.40 *Afternoon Sportscore*

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Scottish News and sport

5.20 *The Flying Doctors*: No Way Back. Uncomplicated drama series about Australia's Flying Doctor Service. Sadness for Sam and Emma when they lose their much-wanted baby. George Baxter tries to get his hands on Ann's property and Chris takes control of her in *Tiger Moth*. Starring Robert Grubb and Liz Birch. (Ceefax)

6.05 *The Noel Edmunds Saturday Roadshow*. The venue is the Billeray School for Performing Arts where Ronnie Corbett is the principal. He fascinates himself as a talent spotter and among the eager participants are Noel Henry Cooper, *Blue Peter*'s John Leslie and guests Kiri Te Kanawa and Richard Clayderman
6.50 Every Second Counts. Three more couples compete for a dream holiday

7.25 *Challenge Anneka*. Anneka Rice is again busy building Rome in a day, but this time it is to redecorate, inside and out, the lighthouse in Happisburgh, Norfolk, recently saved from redundancy by the grateful local residents. Anneka's main task is finding painters with a head for heights. (Ceefax)

8.15 Film: *Paula Bueller's Day Off* (1966). Fast and funny comedy starring Matthew Broderick (currently opposite Marlon Brando in *The Freemans*) who plays a teenage truant determined to have the "day off" of a lifetime. To this he drags along his friend from his sick bed and sets off in a borrowed 1961 Ferrari. Directed by John Hughes.

9.55 News with Marilyn Lewis. Sport and weather (Ceefax)

10.15 *Sportscast* with Dougie Donnelly. Includes Football action from the premier division; *Rugby Union*: the McEwan's Inter District championship; and *Show Jumping* from the Grand Hall, Olympia.

11.45 Film: *Day of the Triffids* (1963). Patchily effective adaptation, with goodish special effects, of John Wyndham's classic sci-fi novel about man-eating plants. US naval officer Howard Keel is one of the few sighted people left after Earth has been bombed by a shower of meteorites and Janette Scott plays a marine biologist who tries to understand the mysterious trifids. Directed by Steve Sekely

1.20am Weather

BBC 2

9.00 Film: *Le Mans* (1971). Steve McQueen indulging his hobby as he battles for the laurels in the glamorous and dangerous world of motor racing. Directed by Lee H. Katzin. (Ceefax)

10.45 *The Sky at Night*: ROSAT - a Space Telescope (1). (Ceefax)

11.05 Pitfalls of a Sporting Life. How to reduce injuries from sport (1)

11.20 *The Balloon*. The final fight of the series looks down on Albuquerque, New Mexico (1)

11.50 *The Honeymoons* (b/w). Jackie Gleason and Art Carney in some vintage, wise-cracking American comedy

12.15 Film: *The Day They Gave Babies Away* (1957). Sentimental story of two parents who immigrate to America to go to America to start a new life and train their six children to carry on after their deaths. Stars Glynn Johns and Cameron Mitchell. Directed by Alan Reepen

1.55 Discoveries Underwater: Science, Salvage or Scrap? Should money be found to preserve the many underwater discoveries made in recent years or should they be left to rust away? (1) (Ceefax)

2.45 *Mahabharat*. Episode 31 of the 91-part Indian epic. (Hindi with English subtitles.)

3.25 *Isaac in America*. Nobel Prize-winning writer Isaac Bashevis Singer takes a journey through his past (1)

4.20 Animation Now: *The Rose and the Ring* animated by Lotte Reiniger (1)

4.40 Tennis. The semi-final of the Grand Slam Cup from Munich

5.55 Cricket. Highlights of England's World Series Cup match against New Zealand in Brisbane.

6.40 NewsView presented by Moira Stuart and Lynette Lithgow. Weather

7.25 Assignment Special: What Price Peace? John Tusa hosts a discussion about the possibility of war with Iraq.

Among those taking part are Tony Benn, MP, Dr Rasha Al-Sabeh, a member of the Kuwait royal family, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley and the Rt Rev William Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough



On the menu: Meat and Two Veg (8.15pm)

8.15 Arena: Food Night.

© CHOICE. Introduced by a couple of *Springtime* puppets called Meat and Two Veg, this four-and-a-half-hour meal includes many tasty-looking dishes. But to avoid indigestion, it is probably best consumed a little bit at a time. Following, *Arena* nights

devoted to the blues, the Caribbean, Merdi Gras and animals, it aims to have something for everyone. The tone is mainly light-hearted, celebrating the Garibaldi and the tomatillos Rossini, introducing the delights of stir-fry, fajitas and other unthinkable and wondering how long it will be before most food is prepared not in the kitchen but in the factory. A kosher Chinese take-away offers sweet and sour lamb and there are reminders of great great television cooks from Fanny Cradock, On a more sombre note we hear about the last meals ordered by prisoners about to be executed and the evening ends with a debate on how the world should feed itself.

NB: the programme times following are approximate

8.20 Modern Food. The ever-widening gap between the original ingredients and what appears in supermarkets

8.30 Great Moments in Food History. Bernard Bresslaw, David Troughton and Christopher Ryan lend comic relief to four people who have given their names to great gastronomic inventions - Rossini, the Earl of Sandwich, Dame Nellie Melba and Garibaldi

8.35 *The Story of Food in 27 Minutes* and 43 Seconds. The part that food has played in history

9.00 Good Manners. Clips from films with famous eating sequences including *Five Easy Pieces*, *Tempo* (see 12.45am) and *Cold Turkey*.

9.15 *What's a Kitchen?* How the ancient kitchen dietary laws are applied today

9.35 *The Last Supper*. Food as a rite of

9.55 *The Complete History of the Potato*. The humble spud gets the star treatment from experts

10.20 *I Just Happen to Have One Here I Made Earlier*. Clips of some of television's most famous cooks, including Fanny Cradock, Zora Skinner and Delta Smith

10.30 *Movable Feast* - The Politics of Disgust. Some people have eaten some funny things and explorer Christina Doddwell, body builder Bernie Price, writer Sophie Grigson and chef Mel Rumbels reflect on the things no one wants to eat

11.10 *Eating for One*. The road to being slim is paved with good intentions

11.30 *Fasting and Abstinence*. As Christmas approaches, the rewards of self-denial are assessed

11.40 Debate: Glenys Kinnock, economist Lord Peter Bauer and Third World campaigner Susan George join a panel of distinguished guests to find the solution to hunger in a greedy world

12.45pm Film: *Tempo* (1968). A perfect triplets to *Food Night* is this quirky Japanese comedy about a young widow who runs a restaurant but cannot even cook noodles, and two truck drivers who decide to show her how. The film contains several witty vignettes about food, and a spoof on the spaghetti western. Directed by Juzo Itami. Ends at 2.40

MTV

© Via the Astra satellite. Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

© Via the Astra satellite. 12.00 *Campus* featuring 12.00pm *WWPP* in Cincinnati 1.00 *The Joan Rivers Show* 1.50 *Formula One 2.45pm* *Death* Show 3.00 *Wrestling* 4.00 *The Edge of Night* 6.00 *The Self-Vision Shopping Show* 8.00 *Tempo* 12.00 *Salvation Army* 12.30 *Two Stars* 12.30 *Starline* 1.00 *Close*

4.00 *Top Ten*

10.00 *Nuts* (1987). Tom Topor's adaptation of his play about a prostitute (Sarah Strassack) who fights for her right to stand trial for manslaughter after the court and her parents have buried her insane

11.55 *Fallen's Cassowary* (1976). Donald Sutherland stars as the legendary romantic, who suffers from a muscle-wasting disease

10.00 *The Water Babies* (1979): James Mason and Bernard Cribbins star in an adaptation of Charles Kingsley's

11.35 *Frosty's Winter Wonderland*: Animated tale about love between a snowman and a snowwoman

12.00 *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947): Edmund Gwenn and Natalie Wood star as Santa Claus who claims to be the true Father Christmas

2.00pm *Codename: Emerald* (1995): Second world war espionage yarn starring Sean Connery and Helen Mirren

4.00 *Big Shot* (1988): Two kids from opposite sides of the tracks team up after one is mugged

5.00 *Scratches* (1989): Stephen Rea and Helen Mirren

6.00 *Now and Forever*: A teenage girl (Gillian Anderson) and her friend (Lizzy Caplan) fall in love

7.00 *Shattered Innocence* (1989): Joanne Lee stars as a cheerleader who is forced into prostitution and pornography

8.00 *Big Shots* (1988): Two kids from opposite sides of the tracks team up after one is mugged

9.00 *Scratches* (1989): Stephen Rea and Helen Mirren

10.00 *Now and Forever*

11.00 *Shattered Innocence*

12.00 *Big Shots*

1.00 *Scratches*

2.00 *Now and Forever*

3.00 *Shattered Innocence*

4.00 *Big Shots*

5.00 *Scratches*

6.00 *Now and Forever*

7.00 *Shattered Innocence*

8.00 *Big Shots*

9.00 *Scratches*

10.00 *Now and Forever*

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4.00 *Big Shots*

5.00 *Scratches*

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7.00 *Shattered Innocence*

8.00 *Big Shots*

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10.00 *Now and Forever*

11.00 *Shattered Innocence*

12.00 *Big Shots*

1.00 *Scratches*

2.00 *Now and Forever*

3.00 *Shattered Innocence*

4.00 *Big Shots*

5.00 *Scratches*

6.00 *Now and Forever*

7.00 *Shattered Innocence*

8.00 *Big Shots*

9.00 *Scratches*

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12.00 *Big Shots*

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3.00 *Shattered Innocence*

4.00 *Big Shots*

5.00 *Scratches*

6.00 *Now and Forever*

7.00 *Shattered Innocence*

8.00 *Big Shots*

9.00 *Scratches*

10.00 *Now and Forever*

11.00 *Shattered Innocence*

12.00 *Big Shots*

1.00 *Scratches*

2.00 *Now and Forever*

Peace package plan could save Gatt talks

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

THE EC and the United States are close to resolving a series of damaging agriculture disputes in a "peace package" that they believe could eventually create the right climate for agreement in world trade talks. It is perhaps the most positive move since the transatlantic dispute over farm subsidies brought the Gatt talks to a standstill last week.

Emerging from their first counter since leaving the Gatt negotiations bitter and empty-handed last Friday, Ray MacSharry, the European farm commissioner, and his American counterpart, Clayton Yeutter, spoke of a new wind of optimism.

Major aims to end EC isolation

Continued from page 1
confidence on the domestic political factor, is talking the language that European politicians understand.

Behind the scenes, British negotiators sought to have some of the Italian presidency's proposals eliminated from the document to be presented to the conference on political union. They argued that more should be done to ensure that existing agreements were implemented before political aspects were widened to include common security or health policies.

Britain wants the conference to write into the EC treaty the notion that nation states should do everything possible for themselves unless there is a compelling reason for a matter to become a European Commission responsibility. It also wants greater concern with value for money — with the European parliament given authority to monitor Community expenditure — and for the European Court of Justice to have power to fine countries that do not implement existing Community laws.

Mr Major appeared yesterday to have achieved one of his main objectives in Rome. British sources said that the meeting with Chancellor Kohl had been very friendly, with the two of them rapidly on first name terms.

between the two blocs. "I am more optimistic than last week," Mr Yeutter said in Brussels yesterday while Mr MacSharry spoke of a new joint determination to bring the Gatt talks to a successful outcome. The European Commission is eager to emphasise the resolution of smaller trade disputes could have a "knock-on effect" on the wider Gatt dispute.

Both agreed to keep in contact until January, when the Gatt round is due to resume in Geneva. Despite their opposed views on farm subsidies, both men believe they can do business. The Commission will discuss the talks on Monday.

The Commission reported "useful discussions" over maize imports, hygiene standards for abattoirs and an American ban on fungus-infected wines from France and Italy. While secondary disputes in themselves, Washington recently threatened to use them to demonstrate its muscle in order to force the Community into greater concessions over farm export subsidies.

As a result of yesterday's talks, the US could now drop the 200 per cent tariffs which it threatened to slap on European food exports unless it received long-term compensation for the sales of animal feed it lost when Spain joined the Community. These tariffs would be severely damaging for Europe's food exporters. But coming so soon after the failure of the Uruguay round, they were also widely interpreted as a foretaste of what could follow unless Brussels offered greater concessions over farm export subsidies.

Mr MacSharry said his talks with Mr Yeutter had helped to "defuse the danger of an outbreak of trade wars". But he still blames the suspension of the Gatt negotiations on America's excessively high expectations, and is deeply sceptical that Washington will even turn up when talks resume in Geneva next month. He told Euro-MPs during a debate on the Gatt on Thursday that agreement was "within our grasp", but he attacked American intransigence over agriculture, services and several other trade sectors.

Brussels also accepts given the growing impatience of Congress, the US administration could find a climb-down on subsidies as politically unpalatable as the Europeans.



End of an ordeal: four members of the British military liaison team who recently arrived back home from the Gulf. From the left, outside the ministry of defence yesterday, were Chief Technician Martin Smith, Warrant Officer Peter Hurt, Warrant Officer Michael Haynes, and Colonel Bruce Duncan, the team's commander

British military men relive invasion nightmare

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL reasons why Iraq should be punished for its plundering of Kuwait were given yesterday by a small group of British military personnel who suffered personal nightmares as marauding Iraqi troops rampaged around the capital city after the August 2 invasion.

While none of the British liaison team in Kuwait, now safely returned to Britain, wanted war, it was difficult for them to hide their innermost thoughts of revenge for what the Iraqis did to their families.

The team's commander, Colonel Bruce Duncan, lost his son,

Alex, aged 19, who was killed in a car accident as he was being driven at speed to Baghdad airport with his brother, Rorie. "They didn't deliberately kill him," Colonel Duncan said yesterday, "but he wouldn't have died if it wasn't for the Iraqis."

A member of his team, Warrant Officer Michael Haynes, aged 37, from Beverley, Humberside, could hardly get the words out as he described how his wife, Elaine, holding their two young sons, one under each arm, was sexually assaulted by an Iraqi soldier. "He held a knife to my five-year-old son's throat and put his hands

under my wife's frock," he said. Warrant Officer Haynes was not there to witness the assault. He had been taken to Baghdad. Later he was reunited with his wife who told him of her experience.

Yesterday, speaking at a defence ministry press conference, the senior NCO was asked whether he would want Iraq to pay reparations for what they had done in Kuwait, in particular to his wife and sons. He replied: "Yes."

The fate of the British military liaison team in Kuwait was one of the most delicate issues for the government during the Iraqi hostage-taking policy. There was a

general agreement with the media not to mention the fact that several servicemen were hiding in Kuwait. If the Iraqis discovered there were still military personnel in Kuwait, there was a danger they would be treated as priority targets for Iraqi soldiers and secret police.

Although the team consisted of 77 personnel, all connected with the maintenance of British Chieftain tanks and Hawk fighters sold to Kuwait, there were only 66 in the country at the time of the invasion — 46 army and 20 RAF.

The Iraqis seized more than 30 and sent them to Baghdad. The remainder went into hiding. Col-

nel Duncan, aged 50, of the Royal Tank Regiment, was in Kuwait with his wife, two sons, two daughters, and a friend of the family.

He spent the first six days in the British embassy, then joined the rest of his family in a large house in the city. He said the Iraqis never realised who he was, even when he gave himself up after his son died.

Another member of the military team, Chief Technician Martin Smith, from the RAF, spent months hiding in a basement.

Cheney warning, page 7

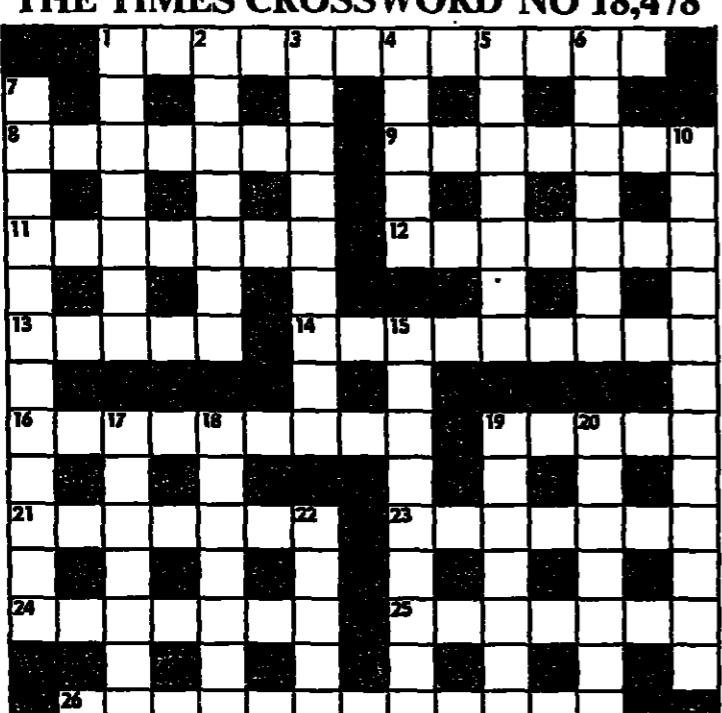
12 dead in trance rite

From REUTER
IN MEXICO CITY

TWELVE people were found in a macabre circle of death in the northwest Mexican city of Tijuana at a house where they had apparently been celebrating strange religious rites, police said.

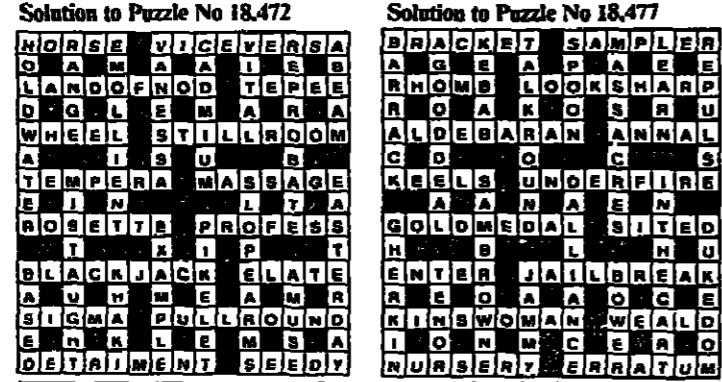
The dead, including a girl, aged six, and a 12-year-old boy, were found in the house, lying in a circle marked out by a rope.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,478



- ACROSS**
- Will say, a fellow always be ill with this? (7).
 - Speaking of assessing for VAT? (7).
 - Wicked reminders by naughty child? (7).
 - Very splendid items of clothing? (7).
 - Woman's love is merited at first by qualities of 11 (7).
 - I had been the best, but didn't work enough (5).
 - Deposit far — it's to be distributed all over (9).
 - Exercise limb to gain movement for game (9).
 - Debtor near the back presenting cheque (3).
 - Comes from Wells (7).
 - Indian chief misrepresented in caption (7).
 - The sort of sugar for a Pobble, say? (7).
 - Incompetent personage (7).
 - Excess paint in hotel given to church (12).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,477



PARKER A prize of a superb Parker Duofold fountain pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions. Next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

- By Philip Howard
- BATHYCOLPOUS**
- Bathing in pools
 - Deep-rooted
 - Having large breasts
- ZYMMOME**
- A strolling clown
 - Alcoholic gout
 - A lake nymph
- RASORIAL**
- Shaving
 - Scratching for food
 - With serrated edge
- RAD**
- To overact
 - Trendy and admirable
 - To blow up

Answers on page 15

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0898 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C London (within N & S Circ), 731
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T, 732
M-ways/roads M25, 733
M-ways/roads M23, M4
M25 London Orbital only, 736
National traffic and roadworks
National motorways, 737
West Country, 738
Wales, 739
Midlands, 740
East Anglia, 741
North-west England, 742
North-east England, 743
Scotland, 744
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For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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Dorset, Hampshire & IOW, 703
Devon & Cornwall, 704
Wiltshire, Avon, Somerset, 705
Bucks, Bucks, Oxon, 706
Beds, Herts & Essex, 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs, 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent, 709
Shropshire & Worcs, 710
Central Midlands, 711
East Midlands, 712
Lincs & Humberside, 713
Dyfed & Powys, 714
Gwynedd & Chwyd, 715
NW England, 716
Wales & the Dales, 717
N E England, 718
Cumbria & Lake District, 719
S W Scotland, 720
W Central Scotland, 721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders, 722
E Central Scotland, 723
Grampian & E Highlands, 724
W Scotland, 725
Cairngorms, Orkney & Shetland, 726
N Ireland, 727
Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 5 pm, 7C (45F); min 5 pm to 8 am, 1C (34F). Humidity: 8 pm, 65 per cent. Pressure: 101.6 mb, 101.6 in. Sun: 24 hr, 60 minutes. Wind: 5.8 km/h, 3.6 mph. Visibility: 10 km.

Today: Temp: max 6 am to 5 pm, 8C (46F); min 5 pm to 8 am, 2C (35F). Pressure: 101.6 mb, 101.6 in. Sun: 24 hr, 60 minutes. Wind: 6.4 km/h, 4 mph. Visibility: 10 km.

Moonrise: 10.22pm. Moonset: 05.22am.

Tide measured in metres: 1m-3.28m.

High tides: 1024, 1016, 1018, 1015, 1012, 1008, 1006, 1004, 1002, 1000, 998, 996, 994, 992, 990, 988, 986, 984, 982, 980, 978, 976, 974, 972, 970, 968, 966, 964, 962, 960, 958, 956, 954, 952, 950, 948, 946, 944, 942, 940, 938, 936, 934, 932, 930, 928, 926, 924, 922, 920, 918, 916, 914, 912, 910, 908, 906, 904, 902, 900, 898, 896, 894, 892, 890, 888, 886, 884, 882, 880, 878, 876, 874, 872, 870, 868, 866, 864, 862, 860, 858, 856, 854, 852, 850, 848, 846, 844, 842, 840, 838, 836, 834, 832, 830, 828, 826, 824, 822, 820, 818, 816, 814, 812, 810, 808, 806, 804, 802, 800, 798, 796, 794, 792, 790, 788, 786, 784, 782, 780, 778, 776, 774, 772, 770, 768, 766, 764, 762, 760, 758, 756, 754, 752, 750, 748, 746, 744, 742, 740, 738, 736, 734, 732, 730, 728, 726, 724, 722, 720, 718, 716, 714, 712, 710, 708, 706, 704, 702, 700, 698, 696, 694, 692, 690, 688, 686, 684, 682, 680, 678, 676, 674, 672, 670, 668, 666, 664, 662, 660, 658, 656, 654, 652, 650, 648, 646, 644, 642, 640, 638, 636, 634, 632, 630, 628, 626, 624, 622, 620, 618, 616, 614, 612, 610, 608, 606, 604, 602, 600, 598, 596, 594, 592, 590, 588, 586, 584, 582, 580, 578, 576, 574, 572, 570, 568, 566, 564, 562, 560, 558, 556, 554, 552, 550, 548, 546, 544, 542, 540, 538, 536, 534, 532, 530, 528, 526, 524, 522, 520, 518, 516, 514, 512, 510, 508, 506, 504, 502, 500, 498, 496, 494, 492, 490, 488, 486, 484, 482, 480, 478, 476, 474, 472, 470, 468, 466, 464, 462, 460, 458, 456, 454, 452, 450, 448, 446, 444, 442, 440, 438, 436, 434, 432, 430, 428, 426, 424, 422, 420, 418, 416, 414, 412, 410, 408, 406, 404, 402, 400, 398, 396, 394, 392, 390, 388, 386, 384, 382, 380, 378, 376, 374, 372, 370, 368, 366, 364, 362, 360, 358, 356, 354, 352, 350, 348, 346, 344, 342, 340, 338, 336, 334, 332, 330, 328, 326, 324, 322, 320, 318, 316, 314, 312, 310, 308, 306, 304, 302, 300, 298, 296, 294, 292, 290, 288, 286, 284, 282, 280, 278, 276, 274, 272, 270, 268, 266, 264, 262, 260, 258, 256, 254, 252, 250, 248, 246, 244, 242, 240, 238, 236, 234, 232, 230, 228, 226, 224, 222, 220, 218, 216, 214, 212, 210, 208, 206, 204, 202, 200, 198, 196, 194, 192, 190, 188, 186, 184, 182, 180, 178, 176, 174, 172, 170, 168, 166, 164, 162, 160, 158, 156, 154, 152, 150, 148, 146, 144, 142, 140, 138, 136, 134, 132, 130, 128, 126, 124, 122, 120, 118, 116, 114, 112, 110, 108, 106, 104, 102, 100, 98, 96, 94, 92, 90, 88, 86, 84, 82, 80, 78, 76, 74, 72, 70, 68, 66, 64, 62, 60, 58, 56, 54, 52, 50, 48, 46, 44, 42, 40, 38, 36, 34, 32, 30, 28, 26, 24, 22, 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0, -2

- SPORT 27-33
- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 34-39
- WEEKEND MONEY 40-44

مكتبة من الأصل

SPORT

SUMMARY

Serving notice



PETE Sampras (above), the US Open champion, beat Goran Ivanisevic in a quarter-final which brought the controversial Grand Slam Cup to life. The tournament, which is being played in Munich this week, has been criticised by the Association of Tennis Professionals as being no more than a "glorified exhibition".

Sampras and Ivanisevic, however, swept all the politics aside with a match of highly charged serve-and-volley tennis which thrilled the audience. Andrew Longmore reports. Page 28

SKIING

Swiss role

THE Swiss, Franz Heinzer, won the second downhill of the World Cup season, held in Val Gardena, Italy yesterday. Second was Berni Huber, of Germany, whose performance beat a recent knee injury. Report. Page 32

SPORT ON TV

Viewing figure



TEN million people will tune in to BBC1 tomorrow night to discover who is the BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Such illustrious figures as Mary Peters (above), Bobby Moore, and Sebastian Coe, have won in the past but tomorrow, the BBC reveals a new favourite. Page 28

CRICKET

Test signal

NEEDING to win of their four remaining World Series Cup matches to qualify to meet Australia in the finals next month, England play New Zealand today. But most thoughts are already on the second Test match which starts on Boxing Day at Melbourne. Page 31

SPORTS BOOKS

Reading light

WHAT are the best sports books of 1990? Today The Times's specialists on golf, tennis, rugby union, and motor sport, offer their selections. Page 32

GOLF

Faldo's best



NICK Faldo (above) equalled his own best score and the course record when he shot a 62, nine under par, in the Asian Classic in Hong Kong yesterday. The record round gave him a three-stroke lead over the rest of the field. Report. Page 31

RACING

Foreign field

LANDYAP and Pelorus will be the first English-trained runners to contest the £100,000 Invitation Cup over nine furlongs at Sha Tin, Hong Kong, tomorrow. Tony Ives, now based in the colony, rides Landyap for David Elsworth with Brian Rouse on Willie Jarvis's Pelorus in the 14-strong field. Page 32

True Blue pilots who rode out the storms of discord

DONALD Macdonald stood outside a television shop in the City of London on Tuesday afternoon and watched through the window as Oxford beat Cambridge in the University rugby match at Twickenham. As the referee blew the final whistle, the camera turned to the face of the Oxford captain, Mark Egan, for whom the match had been a personal triumph. His eyes were closed in elation and relief. It was an expression that Macdonald was uniquely placed to understand.

Nearly three years before, Macdonald had stood in the Oxford boat with a similar look on his face, having led his crew to success in the Boat Race. His triumph, like Egan's, was unexpected and came against a background of mutiny and strife.

On Thursday, Macdonald met Egan for the first time. Over dinner in Oxford, the two talked long into the night. Their conversation ranged back to the winter of 1986, when Macdonald, the president of the rowing club, had found himself at odds with the men who were expected to be the basis of his Boat Race crew. After prolonged arguments, some about whether Macdonald deserved his place in the boat, five Americans, Chris Clark, Dan Lyons, Chris Huntington, Chris Peary and Jon Fish, were dropped. Macdonald took a weakened crew into the Boat Race, and against all expectations, won in style.

Egan's story began in January 1990, when he beat Troy Coker by a single vote for the rugby captaincy after two rival camps had been established within the club. Subsequently, after Brian Smith, an Irish and Australian international, had arrived late back for a match, Egan had dropped him. Two Australians, Coker and Morgan Jones, the American international, Don James, and another American, Gary Heta became involved. All were dropped from the Oxford squad by Egan for a tour of the Far East in September and only Hein regained his place. Once again Oxford were given little chance in the university encounter. Once again, they won.

Egan himself was not surprised. "The sight of five of our strongest forwards crying their eyes out in the dressing room before Tuesday's match confirmed my belief that the decision had been the right one. When I saw that I knew we would win. The spirit and togetherness were extraordinary." Drawing inspiration from the story of Macdonald's lonely fight for the Dark Blue rowing club in 1987, chronicled in the book, *True Blue*, by Daniel Topolski, Oxford's coach that year, Egan steered himself to pursue a similar path.

His was a somewhat different challenge. "Our conflict was about my desire to have only those who would show total commitment to the club in my team," Egan said. "Brian Smith had said he wanted to play for Leicester as well as Oxford. My answer was it was all for us or not at all. Overseas students who come to Oxford must devote themselves to the rugby club. Like Donald, he enforced

Oxford's surprise victory in the University rugby match this week came, like the Boat Race triumph in 1987, after a mutiny. The men who steered their teams through troubled waters to ultimate success met for the first time on Thursday. Peter Bills joined them

ing that belief involved much pain. Facing the overseas players and telling them what I felt was a horrible experience, the worst thing I have ever had to do."

Macdonald recognised the position. He said: "Above all, I suppose I had sought the values which Mark now wished to emulate. Throughout our difficult year there was this feeling of 'don't upset the Americans'. But with them in the boat we had eight individuals rather than a team with camaraderie. When we left them out, the side we picked focused on the same objective, a deep conviction that we would win. It was for the honour of our university, the glory of the club. And once the decision had been taken at that point it became sublime. You cannot explain it really; I just woke up one day and thought we are going to do it."

Egan does not think he suffered the personal hurt inflicted upon Macdonald. No one told Egan, as they told Macdonald, that he was not good enough for the side. "Even in the worst times I always felt a warmth from those close to me: the coach, the secretary and fellow players," Egan said. "The worst moment came when we were losing one of those six matches [out of seven] in the Hilary term from January to March. I felt so lonely, so distraught, it would have been easy to call up the overseas internationals and we would have ended the torment by winning a couple of matches. But then I would have been fighting my conscience."

For Macdonald, circumstances were slightly different. "We had thrown down the gauntlet and had to trust our judgment. It became, for three weeks, a matter of pure survival. Other people were trying to take control of the club and I had to respond to it. In those circumstances, as with Mark, you must have a clear conviction because there are constant doubts."

Egan felt his first and greatest responsibility was to the rugby undergraduate burning with ambition to win a Blue. "After reading the book on the 1987 Boat Race mutiny it was always my belief that I needed 15 totally committed people rather than a side containing superstars whose devotion I could not guarantee. I feel we had lost in 1989 because we had the stars but not the team spirit. Certainly, overseas players had helped Oxford to victories in

1986 and 1988 but while the wins were great for a year or two people increasingly asked what had happened to the club.

"When I became captain I insisted on total participation. I would have gone into the university match with 14 unknown undergraduates because I felt the principle was worth sticking by." Macdonald took a similar view.

"The overseas guys at Oxford have a real responsibility. They cannot just come here and take without giving. This is where the problems arise. Our problem was much more political and it became very ugly. Suddenly these guys saw mutiny as the best possible solution. But there are parallels here: it was like *Mutiny on the Bounty*." The lowest point for Macdonald

was not the arguments or the fights. It was the realisation that supposedly strong men were renegeing on promises of support.

"I realised at that point I was pretty much alone with no one to turn to. But people all over the world were writing to me saying don't cave in."

Egan said: "To have won at the end of it all and now to have had the chance to talk through with Donald is something of a fairytale for me. We both stood for certain values and won against the odds. The details were different but the principles were similar. Perhaps we have blown away this myth that the Varsity match or Boat Race is down to individuals. I have nothing against Australians or Americans but I do feel they need to understand the value of

commitment to the general cause."

And the final, triumphant moments made the sacrifices seem worthwhile. "The sense of elation and joy was one I expect to experience again only in the after-life," Egan said.

"His story is the same as mine, one of triumph of conviction," Macdonald added. "But you can only truly understand this passion if you have been through it. We are talking about intangible things like desire, team spirit and will to win. Money or reputation can never achieve those things."

Rowing trials, page 30

Barnes may be staying

By CLIVE WHITE

JOHN Barnes could yet remain a Liverpool player beyond the end of this season when his contract expires. Barnes, who has repeatedly expressed a wish to play abroad, confirmed yesterday that he has reopened negotiations with the club.

Barnes had hitherto declined to make any decision about his long-term future despite being offered one of the most lucrative contracts in the club's history. But discussions have finally got under way this week with Kenny Dalglish, the manager, and Noel White, the chairman.

Liverpool, who could receive in excess of £5 million for Barnes if he was sold while under contract, would get no more than £1.5m — the UEFA maximum — if he was transferred while out of contract.

It is just as well, from Liverpool's point of view, that they have discovered an exciting new forward talent in Steve McManaman, who made an impressive appearance recently for the England under-21 side. McManaman has been included in their squad to play Sheffield United, the bottom club, at Anfield today.

Dave Bassett, the United manager, must be cursing his luck. Just when he fancied his side's inclusion in the record books — that of equaling Hull City's wretched start to last season of 16 League matches without a win — last week's game at home to Derby County was postponed. Now even United would have to admit that they are odds-on to keep Hull company.

Conversely, the postponement of Liverpool's game away to Nottingham Forest meant that they could begin their rehabilitation after the Highbury setback at home, which even Dalglish had to concede was a blessing. "You couldn't ask for a better place to get help than here," he said.

Howard Kendall, having secured his first win last week since picking up the reins again over at Goodison Park, will be seeking his first away win against Leeds United at Elland Road in tomorrow's televised game. Without Milligan and Hinckliffe, that could be almost as tall an order for Everton as for Sheffield United.

Kendall watched Leeds, unbeaten in nine games, humiliate Queen's Park Rangers recently which could not have been much good for his confidence. "They are well organised and very lively. Gordon Strachan is a marvellous player. He must be in contention for the player of the year award," he said.

Given the style with which Leeds are playing this season and Kendall's progressive outlook, it should make for enjoyable viewing in spite of the remarks this week of Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, that the public should not expect sportsmen to be entertainers, too.

Bonds mission, page 29



Masters of intrigue: Egan (left) and Macdonald toast their successes under a portrait of the second Duke of Buckingham, George Villiers, at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford on Thursday

The referee who saw red 12 times

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

had no choice "after I was insulted gravely".

Umpire stumped

A nd on to cricket umpires. It is a tough job, standing in the Al Fatah tournament in Dubai. In a recent match, the umpire turned down an appeal, and was surrounded by protesting players. The match was being watched by a member of the cricket council who, by one of those Nostradamus coincidences, worked for the same company as the members of the protesting team. He walked on to the field, and raised his finger decisively. The umpire's decision was reversed, and the batsman was out.

San Siro sod's law San Siro stadium in Milan is probably the most dramatic in the world. A shame that the pitch is virtually unplayable, as Aston Villa found out when they paid a losing visit there in the UEFA Cup. The blame has been placed on the construction of a third tier of precipitous seating, which turns the stadium into a kind of quadruple cliff face. But people were forced to look elsewhere when the same problems affected the pitch at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. The problem is not — or not just — the high stands blocking off the sun and preventing the sun from reaching the pitch. The real problem is sand. The turf is laid on sand from the River Po, sand which is furiously acidic, and prevents the grass from growing.

Castaneda was surrounded by protesting players. Even Toledo said their goal was illegal. But the ref got out his red card and showed it to every one of the nine Gamonal players still on the pitch. Castaneda agreed afterwards that his action was "unusual", but added that he

overtaken the entrepreneurs in Rome who planned to flag off the pitch on which the World Cup final was played. They had the quaint notion of making a fat profit and then re-laying the pitch in a single month. They offered 301,000 turfs for sale, sold 1,000, the re-laying of the pitch has been a disaster and most of the people who paid for their chunks of sacred turf have not received them.

Bob Willis — surely everyone's idea of the Oscar Wilde de nos jours — has, like Oscar, long been associated with Caf Royal, from which he runs his International Luncheon Club. He is now involved in re-forming the National Sporting Club from that venue. The club it was that formulated the Queensbury Rules, another Wildian connection. Willis's plans include a Hall of Fame dinner at some future date, that will include the six greatest living sports people. Women will be allowed to become members for the first time. And he plans to reintroduce such delights of yore as fencing and boxing evenings.

A team of toffs Team Nightmare marches on, and this week I present my third winner and my third bottle of ambrosial tawny port, Calem Colheita 1957. I begin with a fine effort from Simon Rice, for which he received the consolation prize described to me beguilingly, as a "carouself" of port. He writes, striking his typewriter keys with considerable force as he does so: "Here is my nightmare team: Atherton, Larkins, Gower, Smith, Lamb, Stewart, Russell, Lewis, Small, Malcolm, Hem-

nings." However, this week's nectar goes to Chris Freddi, who sends us an all-England posh eleven, every one of whom won a full England cap. We start with a goal and end with the forwards:

Ernold Oak Scattergood, Thelwell Mather Pike, Beaumont Griffith Jarrett, Brigadier Cecil Vernon Wingfield Stratford, General Sir William Bromley Daveyport, Reginald de Courtney-Welch, Errington Ridley Liddell Keen, Elphinstone Jackson, David Bone Nightingale Jack (captain), Horatio Stratton Carter, Robert Walpole Sealy Vidal Subs: Claude Thebier Ashton, Cuthbert James Burnup, Rupert Renorden Sandilands, Captain William Stanley Kenyon-Slaney, Morton Peto Bents.

Referee: Segal Richard Bassett. Mr Freddi assures me that this is the genuine name of a genuine referee, and who am I to argue with scholarship?

Student kicks Six months ago, Arne Riepe saw the game of American football for the first time. Now he has set a record for the game. He has kicked 85 extra points this season for his high school, beating the previous record by four. Riepe is an exchange student from Germany at Hayesville High School in New Orleans. He has missed only three extra points all season. "I didn't really know what they were asking when they asked me to come out for football, but I said, OK. Why not?" The highest paid kicker in the National Football League is Morten Anderson, a Dane with New Orleans Saints, who gets half a million bucks a year. He too was an exchange student.

SURVIVAL OR STARVATION?

How your £15 can help feed Mulu for the rest of her life...

Mulu is one of 30 orphans who have so far been saved from starvation by the Hope Centre Orphanage in Ethiopia.

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YES I want to help build the new dam, to break the cycle of famine and give the children a chance for the future.

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£15 £30 £50 £100 Other amount £_____

I enclose my cheque/postal order made out to EthioPiaid, or please debit my MasterCard/Visa account (delete as applicable)

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BRINGING HOPE, NOT HANDOUTS

Bonds honesty is the best policy

FOOTBALL may have been more than a matter of life and death to Bill Shankly, but to Billy Bonds it is just a job, about the best one in the world. His attitude, even since moving into the precarious world of management, is unchanged from when he was a buccaneering player: "Football always had and always will be of secondary importance to me," he said.

First in his life, as it is with many professional people, is his family. But few have the courage or honesty to state it quite so openly, for fear of being accused of lacking commitment. No youngster who ever trod home behind Bonds (even when in his 40s) in a cross country race in training let alone faced him on the field of combat, would ever have accused him of that.

Bonds has brought the same degree of dedication to his role as West Ham United manager as he did to a playing career embracing a record 858 senior appearances. Even if he still could, at the age of 44, he would not attempt to play and manage because the job, he felt, needed his full attention. Yet he still managed to divorce the increasing business from diminishing pleasure. "I never let football people come to my house," he said.

As a player, Bonds was renowned for his speed off the mark after the match rather than during it. "Sometimes at training he was gone before we even got in," John Lyall, his former manager and a colleague of 22 years, remarked. "I've never known the bloke to socialise at all."

One of his fellow players once commented: "I doubt if he even knows where the players bar is at Upton Park."

On the field, though, no player could have wished for a more dependable colleague. Not for nothing did Volkswagen choose Bonds, 23 years a player, to promote the reliability aspect of their cars in the club's programme some years ago. Should honesty ever become a quality worth promoting again, then Bonds would be a perfect vehicle for that,

too — and he was honest enough to admit it.

"All the people I worked for — Bob Stokoe, Ron Greenwood, John Lyall — had one thing in common. Honesty. You knew where you stood with them. That's the way I try to manage. I like honesty. There's not a lot about now, but I do like it," Bonds said.

He never makes the mistake, though, of confusing modesty with honesty. For example, even though he never won an England cap as a player, he quite rightly thought of himself as such and would have been officially recognised so had he not cracked a couple of ribs in 1981 just prior to an international against Brazil. "It doesn't bother me. I regard myself as an international. I'm not being big-headed, I just know I was good enough to play for England. That's all I need to know," he said.

Similarly, when asked to explain his idyllic start to his first full season in management, in which West Ham have gone 22 League games without defeat, he replied quite candidly: "I've been lucky."

Since succeeding Lou Macari in February, the team are also unbeaten at home, record which comes under particularly close scrutiny today against a Middlesbrough side sporting the biggest goal difference away from home in the second division.

West Ham have much for which to be grateful to Lyall, their estranged manager. Had he not offered Bonds the position of youth team coach a few years ago, Bonds felt sure that he would have left the club and joined another lower down the League and carried on playing. "I was very happy to be a youth team coach. As a matter of fact, I enjoyed it more than this job. I think it's the best in football," he said.

There was never any doubt that Bonds, who insists on being called Billy or Bonzo by the players, would immediately command the respect of those he had just previously played alongside, principally because he already had their utmost respect. Those who

doubted his tactical acumen did not know him.

"He was a very intelligent player," Lyall said. "You could readily leave it to him to make a tactical decision during the course of a game. His early days were spent under Ron Greenwood and you could not have had a better person from whom to learn about management."

His later days under Lyall must have been informative as well, but at a glance, it would seem that Bonds' installation as manager, thereby reviving continuity in that position, brought immediate stability to the club after its ill-fated seven-month association with Macari. Nevertheless, Bonds conceded that results might just as easily have gone badly.

He was at pains to point out, too, that West Ham never saw the real Macari. "I don't think Lou ever came here and was really himself, to be quite honest. I think he had so many things on his mind that were happening down at Swindon," Bonds said.

As the new head of the Academy, Bonds is aware that his responsibility for upholding the club's tradition for good football, but in no way feels encumbered by it. He would play that way because he chose to, but has warned the West Ham cognoscenti that the works of people like Brooking, Devonshire and Moore are not easily repeated.

Management was not a job which Bonds particularly craved. Until the day he stopped playing at the age of 41, he never thought further than his next appearance in the claret and blue. Even now, he said, he would find it harder to accept that he could not run and train any more than if he was suddenly to lose a job in football, deeply though he was indebted to it.

Sometimes he wished that every player started off his career, as he did, on a factory floor. Then perhaps, Bonds said, he would be more appreciative of what he has — the best job in the world.



Head of the Academy: manager Bonds casts a keen eye over training

O'Leary's sympathy in defeat

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE defeat handed out to David O'Leary, the Arsenal and Republic of Ireland defender, by the taxmen was being received in football yesterday with sympathy, rather than for sympathy (Peter Bell writes). There is certainly no indication that there have been widespread attempts by footballers to use overseas tax shelters.

The general response from agents and financial advisers was surprise that either O'Leary or Arsenal believed that the coup, Arsenal giving O'Leary an interest free loan which was invested in Jersey, would work. "The attempt does make use of the fact that O'Leary is not domiciled in the UK, which would not be true for the vast majority," Peter Sutton, of the accountants, Touche Ross, said. Touche Ross has several leading players among its clients.

"Obviously I only saw the newspaper reports so I don't know all the facts of the case, but on the face of it I'm not at all surprised that it didn't work. And for UK domiciled players, the rates are just so tight it is very difficult to set up anything that is tax effective."

Two of the game's leading agents, Jonathan Holmes and Dennis Roach, were equally surprised at the concept, both insisting that the use of overseas tax shelters was not something they had encountered before, although Holmes said he knew of one prominent England player who he believed was doing it for his other commercial ventures. In terms of football earnings he was dismissive. "I don't see any basis for a UK resident to have UK earnings paid abroad," Holmes said.

Venables keeps the formula Stadium problems mount for Bath

By WALTER GAMMIE

FOOTBALL is no longer an 11-a-side game. That is not the latest dictate from those members of Fifa frustrated at their failure to get the go-ahead for a stadium after making a late entrance. Last Saturday, for example, Tottenham were trailing 2-0 at home to Sunderland before two second-half goals from Welsh contributed to a final score of 3-3.

But Venables is convinced as to why Paul Walsh is constantly stuck on the substitutes' bench, the Tottenham Hotspur manager yesterday said: "Football these days is very much a 13-man game. It has been that way on the Continent for many years. Over there they sometimes start the match with their best player on the bench."

"I can often hear a more explosive effect when they do come on. Continental players seem to accept this more readily than some in this country."

Presumably that was a dig at Walsh, who was unhappy to learn that he will once again

start at home to Wimbledon.

Providing Arsenal avert defeat at home to Wimbledon

WEEKEND TEAM NEWS

First division

Arsenal v Wimbledon
Arsenal are unchanged.

Coventry v Man Utd
Regis Livermore and Glyn Thomas of Coventry scored after Robson could start his first game for United since the FA Cup final in May. Incisive and fit return to the midfield, probably at Webb's expense.

Derby v Chelsea

Callaghan returns for Derby, who include Williams in the squad. Townsend (concussion) is very doubtful for Chelsea; Stuart or Burness will deputise.

Liverpool v Sheff Utd

United will be pleased to be making their first ever debut in their squad. United welcome Jones and Morris back after injury.

Second division

West Ham v Middlesbrough

Martin, Foster, and Bishop are all injured and available for West Ham. Middlesbrough (without a late fitness test) Phillips (ankle) faces a late fitness test for Middlesbrough.

Tottenham v Luton

McLaughlin, the midweek £1 million signing from Swindon, makes his debut for Tottenham in place of Case (knee), and Lee (knee). Case is fit after illness. With Orme (caj) absent, Casciaro returns to the Villa attack.

Sunderland v Norwich

Callaghan returns to Sunderland forward line after fitness. Bennett and Owens face late fitness tests.

TABLE TENNIS

Parker casts doubt over Chen selection

CHEN Xinhua's international career may be over (Richard Eaton writes). Donald Parker, the England captain, says Chen cannot be considered for the world championships in Japan in April unless the Rotterdam player can make big improvements in his fitness during the next three months.

Chen will then be 31 and the disappointment of failing to gain selection would almost certainly end his England career. The former member of two Chinese world title-winning teams has played only once for England since he joined a Bradford-based syndicate for his adopted country in the World Team Cup last May.

Parker said yesterday: "Since

the national council vote to

include Chen Xinhua, he has been

selected for all events for which

he was eligible. In both open

and closed tournaments, the

M & G Classic, he did not

participate in the team events

for physical reasons, and with

the current ETU ruling which

has been questioned by the

ETTA, the next major event in

which he is eligible would be the world championships in Japan.

"To select him for this event

on current evidence would be

unwise as, with up to a dozen

team matches, fitness is vital.

Unfortunately, due to other

commitments he has been un-

able to attend any of the squad

training at Lilleshall and has

only made a very brief appear-

ance at the Chesterfield Centre.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern pack holds the answer at Wigan

By KEITH MACKLIN

THERE is a very open appearance about this weekend's Regal Trophy quarter-finals, with no side showing sufficient form to stand out above the rest. Even the holders, Wigan, have been struggling to piece together their game, and there can be no certainty of victory despite home advantage against Bradford Northern today.

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CRICKET

Government approval

(Richard Streeton writes)

THE last remaining threat to Durham's hopes for a new headquarters ground on which to play county championship cricket disappeared yesterday when the Department of the Environment offered no objection to the proposed £9 million development at Chesterfield.

CHESTERFIELD: District Council was officially told that

the minister saw no necessity for a public enquiry to be held into

the scheme. The go-ahead for the new ground fulfills the main condition laid down by the Test and County Cricket Board

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitakers in fine form on the eve of World Cup test

By JENNY MACARTHUR

JOHN Whitaker, who is competing at Olympia without his top horse, Henderson Milton, underlined the strength of his current team of showjumpers yesterday when he and the eight-year-old Henderson Fonda won the Everest Power and Speed competition by a comfortable one-and-a-quarter seconds.

The win completed a family double, for earlier John's younger brother, Michael, had gained his first win of the show with Henderson Tees Hanauer and Red Wings.

Henderson Fonda, a bred mare, has won a class at every international show in which she has competed since Whitaker started riding her in March at the request of her owner, Armand Tytca.

"She's very careful and she's also fast," Whitaker said. "We have perhaps used her too much just for speed classes because she is just as capable as jumping grand prix courses, as she has proved."

Robert Smith, who had held the early lead on Brook Street Clove — a horse as versatile as Fonda — was relegated to second place when Whitaker, the last to go out of the 29 starters, cut corners in remarkable style to record his winning time.

Michael's win, over a smaller course, was a particularly rewarding one. Tees Hanauer had suffered a loss of confidence after making a bad mistake in

the Toronto Grand Prix last month and on the opening night of Olympia he gave Whitaker a fall after speaking at a fence without a ground line. Yesterday the German-bred gelding showed all his usual fluency in a narrow win over the Swiss rider, Willy Mellegger.

Today, both Whitakers will compete in the Volvo World Cup qualifier, the focal point of the five-day show. John, who as holder of the World Cup automatically qualified for the final in April, is riding Henderson Fonda, the horse who was at the door last May with a lung infection but who has returned to competition better than ever. Michael will ride his top horse, Henderson Monsanta, in an attempt to increase his tally of eight points.

Guy Goosey, aged 16, from Warwickshire, became the youngest winner of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Showjumper award after an authoritative performance on Sky Breeze from a three-year-old.

RESULTS: The Everest Power and Speed: 1. Henderson Fonda (Whitaker); 2. Brook Street Clove (R. Smith); 25.01; 3. Feedback (D. Brooks); 4. Tees Hanauer and Red Wings (M. Whitaker), 1min 2.53sec;

Little Swedish town with big ideas

From DAVID MILLER
IN ÖSTERSDUND, SWEDEN

THE International Olympic Committee is in a state of confusion, and this beautiful little northern Swedish city is at the centre of it. The cause is the success of recent Olympic Games. Now the members do not know which way to turn. Overwhelmed by the alternatives for host cities, they are in danger of making more enemies than friends by their selection.

Fifteen years ago there were too few candidates, and the Games were losing money. Today the money flows and there is an embarrassment of candidates. The people of lakeside Östersund, the county town of Jämtland province which is as large as Switzerland, are making the Olympic movement possibly the best offer in modern winter sporting history: an Olympic Games in 1998 at which spectators will be able to walk to every discipline, except alpine, in 10-25 minutes.

CRICKET

Inclusion of Morris must be mark of selectors' courage

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
BRISBANE

ONLY a few weeks ago, if pushed to give a reason why England might confound the odds against them on this tour, most observers would have nominated the settled, stylish look of the top five batsmen. Time has made a fool of the idea and there is now no area of their game which concerns England more.

As the tour approaches its decisive stage over the Christmas and New Year holidays, England are no longer sure of their best top two, let alone five. It has plagued them throughout the early stages of the World Series competition, in which they have used three different opening pairs in four games, and it is not nearer a solution with the second Test than a fortnight hence.

Gooch, Atherton, Gower, Lamb and Smith was the natural, acknowledged order when the tour began. Then Gooch lost fitness, and with it his form; Atherton was dropped; Gower was injured before he could be dropped. Lamb and Smith remain, but without being in any sense convincing.

When the players flew into a steamy humid Brisbane yesterday, their attention was ostensibly focused on the weekend's two World Series games, against New Zealand today and Australia tomorrow. In reality, the Melbourne Test is already the priority, especially since the win in Sydney on Thursday night which relaxed the risk of demeaning elimination from the one-day competition.

Need to win only one of their four remaining World Series games in order to meet Australia in the finals next month. England will sensibly be thinking ahead and contemplating some delicate selection matters.

Atherton was harshly omitted from the one-day team after an innings which was by no means electrifying but fulfilled the anchor role essential in a limited-overs game. England have had no better without him and, with the Test in mind, he should be restored to duty immediately.

Gower had a full net yesterday for the first time since injuring his thumb in Canberra. It is probably not so much a question of if he is to win back his place but where, and this begs a question about the position of Hugh Morris. For those who might have forgotten, Morris has been on tour almost three weeks since being called out as a cover for Gooch. He has played only two innings, scoring 33 and 50, and if the terms of his recruitment are taken literally, he might as well go home again.

But England are not playing well enough to endorse that; Morris has something to offer, and the management now concedes that his inclusion in the Test team ahead of an originally selected player should not be ruled out.

The man at risk is Larkins, who has at no stage resembled a Test opener and now has little time left for the persuasion. It would take brave

selectors, but good selectors, to give Morris his chance this week and, if the move worked, it would release Atherton to bat at three and Gower at six, a far more comfortable order than of late.

What is most important at this stage is that England are not, as has happened so often before, over-influenced by the unreliable evidence of one-day games when selecting for the serious business.

Australia, already adept at keeping the two games carefully compartmentalised, will use Steve Waugh at No. 4 tomorrow, as a measure of confidence rather than concern. Allan Border will drop down to six, having yesterday played a somewhat eccentric preparation game in up-country Queensland and been dismissed for six by a cotton farmer.

Tomorrow's game will be watched by a capacity 20,000 crowd, the behaviour of which will be under scrutiny following the brawling in Sydney on Thursday. Twelve arrests were made and British tourists were blamed, a sadly familiar story whenever English sporting teams play overseas.

Australia's cricket authorities and their publicists, meanwhile, face an anomaly of their own making. They have the attractive finals they wanted, always assuming England do not lose every remaining game, but through scheduling New Zealand to complete their matches early, there is now the prospect of three games between England and Australia which mean virtually nothing, leading up to three more which do. Public reaction will be fascinating.

• Graham Gooch has been reappointed captain of Essex for next season. Keith Fletcher will again captain and coach the second eleven.

HOCKEY

Dutch expose the English weaknesses

From a CORRESPONDENT
IN SAN SEBASTIAN

The Netherlands..... 3
England..... 1

THE Netherlands displayed all the hallmarks of world champions with a quality second-half display to overwhelm England 3-1 in the opening match of the Four Nations women's tournament here yesterday.

Despite conceding a goal to Jane Sixsmith after seven minutes, the Dutch maintained their composure and after making a tactical switch during the interval, they took the game to the English, who uncharacteristically crumbled and fell into complete disarray.

Sue Sicombe, England's coach, admitted that it had been a poor performance considering England's early control. "We couldn't cope with the pressure which is why the passing was so inaccurate and the marking almost non-existent," she said.

"Our players simply don't have enough top-class match practice at this level; then when the going gets tough the first thing to go is concentration. I think it's important to point out that the Dutch have been together every weekend since October. Our squad had a practice on Wednesday afternoon."

ENGLAND: J Thompson (goal); J Allen (sub), S Coates, K Johnson (sub), F Lee (sub), J Brown, S Lister (sub), J Stannard (sub), J Tait (sub), N Corlett (sub), S Doherty (sub), M Neill (sub), J Lewis (sub). NETHERLANDS: C Bleeker, L Lakeman, A Folken, C Van Nieuwpoort, M Oei (sub: M Thiel), I Wolf, W De Ritter (sub: M Wiersema), Uspela, S Hernandez (sub), M Courteau (sub).

Early trial of strength

TWO international indoor matches between England and Australia at Dulwich College on Friday 2 and 3 will provide an early trial of strength for both sides in preparation for the World Masters tournament in Glasgow, from February 8 to 10 (Sydney Friskin writes).

These games will also be useful exercises for England in view of the sixth European indoor championship at Birmingham. England's first match is against Poland on February 22 and their other opponents in pool B are Austria, France on the same day, and France the following day.

CANADA: South nations tournament: Ireland 1, San Marino 77; Ireland 65, Luxembourg 10.

BADMINTON

DENPASAR, Indonesia: World grand prix Badminton (cont'd): 1-15, 16-21, 22-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-590, 591-592, 593-594, 595-596, 597-598, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-670, 671-672, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-680, 681-682, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-690, 691-692, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-700, 701-702, 703-704, 705-706, 707-708, 709-710, 711-712, 713-714, 715-716, 717-718, 719-720, 721-722, 723-724, 725-726, 727-728, 729-730, 731-732, 733-734, 735-736, 737-738, 739-740, 741-742, 743-744, 745-746, 747-748, 749-750, 751-752, 753-754, 755-756, 757-758, 759-760, 761-762, 763-764, 765-766, 767-768, 769-770, 771-772, 773-774, 775-776, 777-778, 779-780, 781-782, 783-784, 785-786, 787-788, 789-790, 791-792, 793-794, 795-796, 797-798, 799-800, 801-802, 803-804, 805-806, 807-808, 809-810, 811-812, 813-814, 815-816, 817-818, 819-820, 821-822, 823-824, 825-826, 827-828, 829-830, 831-832, 833-834, 835-836, 837-838, 839-840, 841-842, 843-844, 845-846, 847-848, 849-850, 851-852, 853-854, 855-856, 857-858, 859-860, 861-862, 863-864, 865-866, 867-868, 869-870, 871-872, 873-874, 875-876, 877-878, 879-880, 881-882, 883-884, 885-886, 887-888, 889-890, 891-892, 893-894, 895-896, 897-898, 899-900, 901-902, 903-904, 905-906, 907-908, 909-910, 911-912, 913-914, 915-916, 917-918, 919-920, 921-922, 923-924, 925-926, 927-928, 929-930, 931-932, 933-934, 935-936, 937-938, 939-940, 941-942, 943-944, 945-946, 947-948, 949-950, 951-952, 953-954, 955-956, 957-958, 959-960, 961-962, 963-964, 965-966, 967-968, 969-970, 971-972, 973-974, 975-976, 977-978, 979-980, 981-982, 983-984, 985-986, 987-988, 989-990, 991-992, 993-994, 995-996, 997-998, 999-999, 1000-1000, 1001-1002, 1003-1004, 1005-1006, 1007-1008, 1009-1009, 1010-1011, 1012-1013, 1014-1015, 1016-1017, 1018-1019, 1020-1021, 1022-1023, 1024-1025, 1026-1027, 1028-1029, 1030-1031, 1032-1033, 1034-1035, 1036-1037, 1038-1039, 1040-1041, 1042-1043, 1044-1045, 1046-1047, 1048-1049, 1050-1051, 1052-1053, 1054-1055, 1056-1057, 1058-1059, 1060-1061, 1062-1063, 1064-1065, 1066-1067, 1068-1069, 1070-1071, 1072-1073, 1074-1075, 1076-1077, 1078-1079, 1080-1081, 1082-1083, 1084-1085, 1086-1087, 1088-1089, 1090-1091, 1092-1093, 109

A Swiss skier flies to victory in the downhill but the smiles beam out in the Norwegian camp

Heinzer emerges from the shadows

From BRIAN JAMES
VAL GARDENA

OUT from the dark shadow of the Sasso lungo, a soaring yet low tooth of rock which brave men climb by their fingertips, Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, flew on the very edges of his skiing yesterday to win the second downhill of this World Cup season. It was a victory many had predicted, and for which a sovereign's escort of Swiss bell ringers had invaded Italy at daybreak.

The Sasso lungo, traditionally a dramatic backdrop, was yesterday to play a role. Once the race had been given an unusually late start time, 12.45pm, and then delayed a further 15 minutes after one of the outsiders sent down to set the course had fallen, there was no chance that the race could be run in sunshine. And it is the sun, warming the unshadowed piste, which explains the number of late-starting runners who have often sprinted surprisingly into the event's history.

Not so yesterday. Nobodies were nowhere, the unfancied went unseen. Behind Heinzer, a 28-year-old with four World Cup downhills brightening his long record, came Berni Huber. The German's lowly 24th place in the running order is explained by a serious operation on a wrecked knee; he too has past form that includes seven finishes among World Cup points.

If the shade from that mesmeric hill played some role, there are skiers who believe that it is the disappearance of another shadow, that of the just-retired Firmin Zurbriggen, that is crucial in the emergence of Franz Heinzer. Graham Bell, of Britain, is among them.

"Franz is a brilliant skier. And was. But while Zurbriggen was about, the Swiss couldn't see beyond him. Now they are all around Heinzer, and I think you see what this is doing for him," Bell said.

Heinzer said: "Last year I was second here, behind

Zurbriggen. It was time for me to show I am still able to be fastest downhill. I expect to excel this season. I have changed my attitude. I am more ambitious. More determined. Too often I have missed medals."

Then he went off to troop his huge grin along the lines of his uniformed fan club, hanging over the fence with their nationalistic banners.

None of this, however, prevented the corner of Italian soil that held the largest number of smiles per metre being that part of the racers' enclosure colonised by the Norwegians. Until Heinzer, looking in his yellow-and-scarlet costume like a plate of high-velocity plums and custard, had arrived. Atte Skarda, held first place. He was to finish third, with another of Norway's blond shock-troops, Lasse Arnesen, fourth, a best placing for him.

The belief among this team is towering. Without for a second sounding brash, Arnesen, a civil engineering student from Oslo, aged 23, spoke of "the boom" in alpine skiing which now dominates much Norwegian sport.

"Everything is good and

going better. We have such a great mood in training, we push each other. When I was first in practice the other day that meant I was for that day the best in the world. That is marvellous to think of."

"Today," Skarda said, "the course was perfect. But from me there is more to come. Maybe tomorrow?"

That is literally true. For this race was something of an oddity, accepted by Val Gardena when the first-choice venue, in Argentina, had to withdraw. So this corner of Italy gets another race — that awarded it originally — today, along with a super-giant slalom.



Snow wonder: Heinzer on his way to triumph in yesterday's World Cup downhill

Cyclist's tour de force

By JOHN GOODBODY

MOST sports autobiographies are by celebrated figures. They rarely move the names of the individuals to attract sales than any insights the books could provide. It is rare for a sportsman, raised in an experienced writer, to have the courage, as Arthur Millar, the American playwright, said, to let himself be known.

An exception is *A Rough Ride*, voted the William Hill sports book of 1990, which discloses the uncertainties of a professional cyclist. Its author, Paul Kimmage, now a journalist, depicts the tensions of racing on the Continent, particularly in the Tour de France.

If you think it is tough at the top of cycling, it is clearly even tougher at the bottom. The arduous world of professional riding, day in and day out, with all its jealousies and uncertainties, makes this book a useful record of sporting reporting.

David Howell has also been subjected to pressures. However, what emerges from his autobiography is a man immersed in both sport and politics, and particularly sporting politics. Of the ministers for sport Britain has had over the last 26 years only Colin Moynihan, an Olympic competitor, and Howell, a football referee, have experienced top-class sport from the inside.

Howell consolidated the post for a minister but clearly regrets that it never had the status and responsibilities of government ministers in other departments.

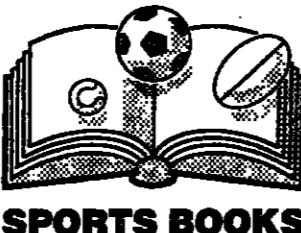
The opening view is put in the book by John Coyle, who, as a former deputy director of the Sports Council, understandably argues against direct government control.

Richard Holt, a university lecturer, has already made a massive contribution to the documentation of British sport with his volume *Sport And The British: A Modern History*, published in 1989. This year he has edited a book of essays of an unusual range. Perhaps the most interesting is the chapter on the Welsh miners, depicting the impact of men like Jimmy Wilde and Tommy Farr on the mining community.

A Rough Ride, Paul Kimmage (Stanley Paul, £12.95); *Made In Birmingham*, Denis Howell (MacDonald Queen Anne Press, £14.95); *Sport And British Politics Since 1960*, John Cophian with Ida Webb (Palmer Press, £12.95); *Sport And The Working Class In Modern Britain*, edited by Richard Holt (Manchester University Press, £29.95).

History of British Isles tours a valuable reference work

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT



SPORTS BOOKS OF THE YEAR

What are the best sports books of 1990? Specialist writers for The Times give their verdicts.

the BBC video, and *Rugby Characters*. Morgan is involved in both the video and the coffee-table book, taking the viewer through, primarily, the last dozen tours, and giving the reader a hint of the character of a clutch of his favourite players, with caricatures drawn by John Ireland.

The video, grainy though much of the footage is, indicates how so many British players blossomed in tour conditions, particularly those of South Africa's firm grounds. The 1955 tour, shared 2-2 with the Springboks, was a highlight of Butlerfield's England career, and in vivid detail the huge crowds which attended the matches — 95,000 at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, when the Lions won 23-22.

A most welcome newcomer to the lists is *The Rugby Union Who's Who* 1990-91 by Alex Ireland.

Memorable but never everyone's favourite

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

JOHN McEnroe has divided opinions since he first came to prominence by reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals as a qualifier in 1977. Rarely, however, can he have divided such distinguished opinions as those of Rex Bellamy and Richard Evans, members of whom will argue an introduction to readers of *The Times*.

In *Love Thirsty* (Simon and Schuster, £14.95), a series of elegantly crafted essays on the 30 most memorable players of his 30 years as a tennis correspondent, Bellamy leaves no doubt which side of the line he stands in assessing the tempestuous American. The second sentence of his portrait of McEnroe reads: "On the grounds that there was better company elsewhere, I have avoided his matches whenever it was professionally reasonable to do so". In fact, he adds, if the original concept of the book had been adhered to — namely, the selection of his 30 "favourite" players — McEnroe would not have been included at all.

Bellamy is certainly more comfortable with his favourites. Great clay-courters like Manuel Santana, talented eccentrics like Milosav Mecir and Adriano Panatta. He admires the stern professionalism of Chris Evert and the artistry of Evonne Goolagong. All are described with the easy, unhurried, uniquely descriptive style which

A rear-view look at motor racing

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

SPIKE. The sponsors, Save and Prosper, hope it will be the first of an annual edition which profiles all those who have represented the home unions, not only in five nations' matches but at B, under-25 and under-21 level.

It enables the players themselves to contribute (Paul Ackford's most embarrassing rugby memory: losing possession to Rob Andrew during mauling practice) and to express tolerably strong opinions on how they believe the game could be improved, many of which revolve around better administration. Club Charrington, Scotland's stand-off half, clearly said: "Don't change a successful recipe," he says, making a point which sometimes seems to be overlooked.

Publications in 1990 include: *British Lions* by John Griffiths (The Crowood Press, £17.95); *Rugby Characters* by John Ireland and Cliff Morgan (Stanley Paul, £17.95); *The Rugby Union Who's Who for 1990-91* by Alex Spink (Collins Willow, £8.95); *The Whitbread Rugby World Cup* by Nigel Starmer-Smith and Ian Robertson (Macmillan Queen Anne Press, £9.99); *Scotland's Grand Slam 1990* by Ian McGeechan, David Stoddart and Gavin Hastings, with Ian Robertson and Mick Cleary (Stanley Paul, £9.99); *Rugby Shorts* by Chris Rhys (Guinness Publishing, £6.95); *Videos: 60 Years of the British Lions* (running time 90 minutes) and *Barbarians: The Final Challenge* (80 minutes), both from BBC Enterprises (£11.99).

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Morley Street can fulfil promise

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

THOSE who relish the sight of top-class novice chasers in action will be in their element at Ascot today when Morley Street and Remittance Man do battle in the grade two Rovacabin Noel Novices' Chase.

Toby Balding's decision to run Morley Street so soon again after his impressive debut over English fences at Worcester, he had already lost his maiden's tag by winning a chase in the United States over what we would regard as hurdles, is based on a desire for some early practice on the Berkshire track since it is his intention to return there in February for the Reynolds' Town Chase.

Having won at Leicester and Newbury, where his

jumping was spot perfect on each occasion, Remittance Man is made of much sterner stuff than Morley Street's rivals at Worcester.

Yet Morley Street, who brushed Sabine Du Loir aside on his last visit to Ascot over hurdles, was his superior over those obstacles and so it should remain over fences.

Anyone who backs Full Strength to win the SGB Chase over three miles should do so in the knowledge that he has never raced over that trip. However, I feel that the risk is worth taking.

On his last visit to Ascot, the Gordon Richards-trained seven-year-old was simply outpaced by Blazing Walker. Before that he had run up a sequence of 10 successive

victories.

New Haven and Man O'Magic, who finished fifth and sixth respectively in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury last time, will probably both appreciate today's shorter race.

While a win for Full Strength will point to Blazing Walker's chance of landing the Frogmore Handicap Chase I still prefer Another Coral, who has impressed me at both Cheltenham and Newbury this season albeit against lesser opposition. Now looks the right moment to take a successful step up in class.

On all known form Royal Derby should be good enough to win the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle since he is meeting his rivals on better terms than he would in a handicap.

At Nottingham, Sam Mellor will have his sights firmly set on winning the race that is run there annually in his honour

with Rebika (2.15). Earlier in the programme he will also be hopeful of winning the EBF Colwick Intermediate Chase with Astre Radieux.

At their best both Floyd and Ryde Again would be hard to beat in the valuable grade one Youngmans Long Walk Hurdle. But I prefer to take a chance in this company and go instead for Charlie Brooks's Balkara, a very easy winner in America last time, after proving himself in France.

In the Hampton Court Handicap Hurdle I like nothing better than Villa Recos, who ran with a great deal of promise at Warwick first time out in the race won by San Pier Niceto (12.30). Padaventure (1.30) and Hi Jane (2.30) while on the all-weather surface at Lingfield my favourite bet would be on the track specialist Tasher (2.55).

Parsons Green who was useful over hurdles, looks the likely winner of the Elvaston Novices' Chase. Peter Niven, who landed a treble at Edinburgh on Monday, can give a repeat performance on San Pier Niceto (12.30). Padaventure (1.30) and Hi Jane (2.30) while on the all-weather surface at Lingfield my favourite bet would be on the track specialist Tasher (2.55).

At Stratford Ponds is also meeting Wonder Man or

vastly better terms compared

with Rebika (2.15). Earlier in the programme he will also be hopeful of winning the EBF Colwick Intermediate Chase with Astre Radieux.

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Foseco plans sale to fight Burmah

By MARTIN BARROW

FOSECO is proposing to sell its speciality chemicals division and buy back a large tranche of its own shares as part of its defence against the £259 million bid from Burmah Castrol.

If the disposal does not proceed, Foseco will instead pay a special dividend of not less than 20p a share, said Tom Long, the chairman, yesterday. Analysts suggest that Mr Long is seeking about £100 million for the division, which last year made pre-tax profits of £2.2 million.

Mr Long, who has announced plans to sell Foseco's abrasives businesses, said the Burmah bid had provoked strong interest in other parts of the company and approaches had been made by six potential buyers. However, it had not been possible to complete negotiations within the timescale of the bid, which closes on Friday.

Laurence Urquhart, the chairman and chief executive of Burmah Castrol, said: "I am singularly unimpressed. There is nothing here that remotely matches the certainty of our offer of 30p in cash."

Burmah has bought 23.5 per cent of Foseco in the market and has received acceptance in respect of a further 1 per cent. Foseco shares rose 2p to 297p, while the price of those for Burmah advanced 5p to 512p.

The special dividend would be paid in addition to normal payouts. Foseco has forecast a final dividend of 9.5p a share for a total of 14.5p, up 7 per cent, with pre-tax profits of £40.5 million, against last time's £46 million.

If the disposals proceed, Foseco will be left with its traditional metallurgical chemicals businesses, which earned £28 million before tax last year. Operating profits for the current year are forecast at £26 million.

Mr Long, who joined Foseco from BAT Industries this year, originally dismissed suggestions that the company would unbundle itself as part of a defence against Burmah. After meetings with institutional shareholders, however, he said he accepted that this was the best way to enhance shareholder value.

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND
US dollar 1.9400 (-0.0040)
German mark 2.8809 (-0.0028)
Exchange index 93.5 (same)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share 1701.2 (-3.7)
FT-SE 100 2168.4 (-3.8)
New York Dow Jones 2587.13 (-27.23)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 24349.50 (-293.47)
Closing Prices ... Page 39
Major indices and major changes Page 36

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month interbank 13%
3-month eligible bills: 13%
US Treasury Bills 7%
3-month Treasury Bills 6.86-6.85%
30-year bonds 106%
CURRENCIES
London: New York:
£ 1.9400 \$ 1.2957
£ 2.8809 \$ 1.4848*
£ 2.4687 \$ 2.7470*
£ 1.9732 \$ 1.0485*
£ 1.9257 \$ 1.0129*
\$ 1.0125 £ 1.9256
ECU 50.709185 SDR 0.739464
£ 1.010688 \$ 0.733228

GOLD
London Fixing:
AM 5373.15 PM 5373.20
close 5373.10/373.50 £192.00-
192.50)
New York:
Comex \$374.85-375.35*

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Jan) ... \$28.00 bbl (£27.40)
* Denotes latest trading price

Tourist rates

Australia \$	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
1.20	1.20	1.20
Belgium Fr	62.45	62.45
Canada \$	2.357	2.217
Denmark Kr	1.17	1.17
France Fr	7.32	7.32
Germany Dm	10.18	9.58
Greece Dr	3.00	2.28
Hong Kong \$	1.12	1.04
Ireland £	1.131	1.081
Italy Lira	225	2190
Japan Yen	272	258
Netherlands Gld	0.32	0.31
New Zealand \$	1.178	1.105
Portugal Esc	255.50	246.50
South Africa R	5.20	4.95
Spain Peseta	190	178
Sweden Kr	1.128	1.055
Turkey Lira	2.42	2.42
USA \$	580	540
Yugoslavia Dri	200	192

Rates for any denomination must only be applied to Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

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WALL STREET

Dow under pressure

Blue chips were under pressure in morning trading as investors declined to buy amid further signs that the American economy is slipping into a recession.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 9.66 lower at 2,604.70. November producer prices rose more than expected, while industrial production and capacity usage fell more than feared.

● Tokyo — Stocks finished

lower after the heaviest turnover in nearly two months.

The Nikkei index was down 293.47 points, or 1.19 per cent, at 24,349.50 with 800 million shares traded. But the Nikkei has shown a net advance on the week, rising 82.01 points.

● Frankfurt — The Dax index

closed 4.60 higher at 1,522.40.

This is the first time the index

has ended above 1,520 since

September 17, when it closed at 1,541.15. (Reuters)

● Paris — The Cac 40 index was 2.60 points lower at 3,674.20.

● London — The FTSE 100 index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,214.10.

● Madrid — The Ibex 35 index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Amsterdam — The AEX index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Copenhagen — The Køb Index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Stockholm — The OMX 30 index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Zurich — The Swiss market

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Dublin — The ISEQ 20 index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Seoul — The KOSPI index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Tokyo — The Nikkei 225 index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Singapore — The STI index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Sydney — The ASX 200 index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Mexico City — The BMV 30 index

closed 1.10 points lower at 1,025.00.

● Paris — The CAC 40 index

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this running total for the year and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure you have won outright or a share of the total profit. You must also have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gross Val P/E
1	Woolworths & D	Breweries	1,000
2	Branshaw's	Industries A-D	1,000
3	GEC (as)	Electricals	1,000
4	Spar (JW)	Industries S-Z	1,000
5	Lowe Group	Paper, Print, Adv.	1,000
6	South West Water	Water	1,000
7	Br Borsoe	Oil/Gas	1,000
8	Eurobore	Electricals	1,000
9	Hambros	Banks, Discount	1,000
10	Liberty	Drapery, Stores	1,000
11	Courtney Pope	Industries A-D	1,000
12	Whitney G (as)	Building, Roads	1,000
13	Kent-Save	Foods	1,000
14	Guinness (as)	Breweries	1,000
15	Capital Radio	Leisure	1,000
16	Vokes	Electricals	1,000
17	Sainsbury J (as)	Foods	1,000
18	Dowty	Motors, Aircraft	1,000
19	Siroes & Fisher	Shoes, Leather	1,000
20	Physis	Chemicals, Plas.	1,000
21	Laird	Industries L-R	1,000
22	Vickers	Industries S-Z	1,000
23	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plas.	1,000
24	Manfield	Breweries	1,000
25	Dalgety (as)	Foods	1,000
26	Renshaw	Industries L-R	1,000
27	Smart (J)	Building, Roads	1,000
28	Watson & Phulip	Foods	1,000
29	Town Centre	Property	1,000
30	Eurolinked Units	Transport	1,000
31	Reed Executive	Industries L-R	1,000
32	Doctor	Industries A-D	1,000
33	Amsterdam	Chemicals, Plas.	1,000
34	Croft, James	Building, Roads	1,000
35	Joseph (Leopold)	Banks, Discount	1,000
36	Hickson	Chemicals, Plas.	1,000
37	Staveley	Industries S-Z	1,000
38	Rank Org (as)	Industries L-R	1,000
39	Racial Telecoms (as)	Electricals	1,000
40	Nu-Swift	Industries L-R	1,000
41	Tomkins	Industries S-Z	1,000
42	Fairley Group	Industries E-K	1,000
43	Plaxton Group	Motors, Aircraft	1,000
44	Sibm Water	Water	1,000
45	The Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	1,000

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	Total

Three readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Marie Grant, of Edinburgh, Mr Kevin Plows, of Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, and Mrs Kathleen Wykeham, of Holyport, Maidenhead, each receive £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	High	Low	Stock	Price	Gross	Val	P/E
SHORTS (Under Five Years)							
501	225	215	1990	1,070	1,000	1,000	1,000
502	195	185	Times	1,050	1,000	1,000	1,000
503	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
504	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
505	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
506	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
507	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
508	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
509	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
510	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
511	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
512	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
513	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
514	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
515	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
516	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
517	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
518	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
519	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
520	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
521	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
522	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
523	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
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528	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
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530	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
531	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
532	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
533	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
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535	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
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539	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
540	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
541	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
542	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
543	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
544	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
545	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
546	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
547	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
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557	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
558	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
559	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
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561	215	205	Times	1,075	1,000	1,000	1,000
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563</							

LETTERS

Bonus hike from reserves robs Peter to pay Paul

From Mr Alan Jenkins

Sir, I was surprised to read (Comment, December 8) that an insurance company is offering to pay journalists to write articles justifying cuts in with-profits bonuses.

Quite apart from the obvious futility of trying to generate favourable comment in this way, surely the fundamental point is that bonuses should be reduced if the underlying investments have fallen in value.

Declaring bonuses that are

not supported by investment performance is surely not to be praised by journalists or anyone else for that matter. If such bonuses are supported by withdrawals from "reserves", then the question arises as to where those "reserves" came from, and the uncomfortable answer could perhaps be that they represent profits that should have been paid out to previous generations of with-profits policyholders.

An investor in a with-profits

policy from a company which

relied on its "reserves" to

maintain current bonus levels in the face of falling asset values could perhaps be forgiven for wondering whether this policy of "robbing Peter to pay Paul" is in his interests.

After all, when his policy matures, will the payout be calculated to favour Peter, or Paul?

Yours faithfully,

ALAN JENKINS,

6 Wilsley Road,

London SW1,

December 8.

Banks need to take action over delays if credit card fraudsters are to be caught

From Mr Richard Miller

Sir, Mr Mervyn Gibson of Barclays Bank tells us that the banks are working together to defeat credit card fraudsters (December 1). From my own experience I can say that one area in dire need of attention is the delay when fraud is reported.

On August 28 an unauthorised purchase was made using my Access account. In the next week there were another three such purchases. The sums involved were substantial: more than £3,000 in all.

On September 14 I received my monthly statement. I immediately telephoned Access. They said it was premature to talk of fraud. They wanted to obtain copies of the relevant vouchers first. A perfectly sensible idea – except that the vouchers are not readily available.

The problem, so I have been told, is that where an Access voucher is processed through a Visa affiliated bank (e.g. Barclays), the voucher is retained by Visa and thus it takes "6 to 8 weeks minimum" for Access to obtain a copy.

In my case every one of the

letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Waiting patiently

From Mr Rodi Okorodudu

Sir, I bought my Premium Bonds on 3rd June 1959. I am still patiently waiting for my first prize!

Yours faithfully,

RODI OKORODUDU,

28 Pound Lane,

Epsom,

Surrey.

There is a penalty of three months' interest for early redemption.

General Portfolio has increased the rates on its two-, three- and four-year guaranteed income and growth bonds. For each £1,000 invested in a guaranteed income bond over one, two, three or four years, savers will earn 9.75 per cent interest. A £1,000 investment in a guaranteed growth bond would earn an extra £97.50 in one year, £204.50 after two years, £321.90 after three years and £450.80 after four years.

Midland Bank has rounded its gross rates to reflect the abolition of composite rate tax next April. Balances of £10,000 or more in an Ex-cheques account will earn 13.75 per cent gross, while balances of £25,000 or more will earn 14 per cent.

Independent research carried out for National Westminster bank showed that 37 per cent of first-year students with a bank or building society account had a current account with NatWest. The bank offers students a £30 gift and interest free overdraft of £300.

Britannia Building Society is offering first-time buyers a 2 per cent mortgage reduction with its Helpstart package for the first six months. Borrowers must take out one of its endowments to cover the loan.

Mortgages at 12.6 per cent fixed for two years are offered by the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society. The bank says it is receiving about 250 calls a day on its Tessa helpline.

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Gartmore Money Management will pay 13 per cent on its Tessa Prime account, compounded at 13.65 per cent.

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Credit card customers will need to take pocket calculators shopping from March if they are to work out the price of items. Revised draft regulations issued by the trade department on differential pricing for credit card customers are intended to leave traders "as free as possible" to determine their own pricing policy.

Retailers will continue to put the cash price on tickets and displays and will only be required to place general notices at the public entrances and at the tills indicating how much extra credit card customers will have to pay. This can be given in percentage terms.

At filling stations, petrol retailers will be able to show the price for whichever method of payment they choose on the pumps and for displays. Most are likely to opt for the lower cash price.

There will also have to be details of differential prices somewhere on the pumps but, again, only in general terms.

The retailers are not supposed to charge more than the credit card companies charge them for

credit card transactions. The average merchant fee on transactions is currently 1.65 per cent. Only the most nimble mathematician will be able to work out how much a tank full of petrol will cost a credit card customer when the percentage increase is given to two percentage points and the cash price is £20.37.

Customers will have to trust retailers who choose to charge different prices to credit card customers not to take advantage of the situation.

They will have no way of knowing what stores and filling stations are charged by credit card companies and whether the extra percentage they are being charged has not been rounded up.

The credit card companies are expected to monitor differential pricing, not trading standards departments. This will add to their costs and no doubt it will be the cardholder who pays in the end.

Last time differential pricing



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

was tried, greed got the better of some retailers, particularly filling stations, and it was short-lived.

Unless dual-pricing is properly policed, shoppers will stop using cards.

Two of the major banks already make an annual charge for credit cards and others are thought to be planning to introduce charges in the first quarter of next year.

At the same time, the interest-free period for credit card users is under serious consideration. Barclays has already scrapped it for customers who do not pay their bills in full each month.

It could mean a return to the cheque for customers determined

not to pay more and longer queues at cash desks as a result.

Broker threat

It seems that brokers become more and more like farmers. They like to have something to complain about. And if there is nothing new then a very old problem will do.

Members of the Institute of Insurance Brokers are threatening to boycott General Accident from January 1 because the insurance company has had the audacity to provide an insurance package for the Ford motor company to give away to buyers

of new Fiestas, Escorts and Orions.

General Accident first offered a similar deal in 1987 to the Morris motor company and has more recently provided insurance cover for the buyers of new Volkswagens and Seats. But only GA's arrangement with Ford has incurred the wrath of this small band of brokers. They do not like motorists dealing directly with insurance companies and being guaranteed a full no claims discount when the year of free cover is over.

The referral of their boycott to the Restrictive Practices Court this week by the director general of fair trading, Sir Gordon Bonn, has only spurred them on.

Andrew Paddick, the institute's director general, claims the brokers want to protect the public from injury. The no claims bonus is an incentive to safe driving and the scheme was likely to put bad drivers into fast or unsuitable cars. General Accident statistical-

ly refutes these allegations. More than 90 per cent of new car buyers have a full no claims bonus, the company says, and a further small percentage is within one year of achieving the maximum bonus. The cost of finding the small number of drivers among the 80,000 who benefited from the Ford scheme who did not qualify for driving experience for the full bonus, outweighed the cost of giving them the bonus.

The brokers fail to publicise the fact that many drivers have a full bonus purely because they have paid an additional premium to safeguard it, not because they are safe drivers. The protection policies are, of course, mostly sold by brokers.

They should stop pretending their concern is road safety and admit they are reluctant to lose the commission of 12.5 to 21 per cent of premiums they receive when they sell or renew a motor policy. Brokers should concentrate on giving clients value for this money so that they are not tempted to boycott brokers and deal directly with insurance companies.

MILLIONS of electricity share certificates will join the Christmas post next week. Their arrival is expected to cause queues at banks, building societies and brokers all over the country as investors try to take advantage of cheap and free dealing offers before they are withdrawn.

The drastic scaling down of the issues means that the maximum number of shares individual investors will have to sell in a single company is 500 and most people will have several packets of 100 shares. They face the dilemma that such a small number of the shares is not really worth holding but may wish to wait for the first batch of vouchers to be issued in August. They are worth £18 for every 100 shares. Customers who wait for the vouchers may feel they then have to hold the shares for much longer as the special deals to sell electricity shares will have ended, making it more expensive and, in many cases, more complicated to sell them.

Those applicants who had registered with brokers to sell shares before interim certificates are issued were able to take average profits of 50 per cent on Tuesday before dealing charges were taken into account.

The real winners were the families who applied for 100 shares each in every company. They received either all the shares they wanted or 1,190, depending on whether they were Seaboard customers or not. Shares costing a family of four £4,800 were worth £7,228 at close of business on the first day of dealing and the commission on the whole lot could have been as little as £120

Electricity investors expected to rush for deals

through Diameter, the Guildford stockbroker. Those who had made arrangements to sell on the first day should have made more than £2,250 profit, even when including lost interest on the money until January 11 when settlement takes place.

The price of the shares has changed little since then and investors who qualify for free dealing through the Skipton Building Society or cheap dealing through other brokers should see sizeable profits on family packages of shares in all or most of the companies.

The certificates and refund cheques should begin to arrive on Wednesday, giving people three and a half days to sell before Christmas. Those who are quick off the mark can even sell and have the cheque for the proceeds cleared on Christmas Eve if they use one of the 270 branches of National Westminster Bank with a touch screen. The minimum fee for instant dealing is £17 for shares in one company worth up to

£1,133. The bank is also offering postal dealing for a minimum commission of £9.

Building Society is charging £10 to sell shares worth up to £300 in one company and £15 above. Customers should know the price within one hour and immediate clearance of up to £500 will be given to cheques paid into a Yorkshire account on the settlement day.

Applicants who feel sure about losing interest on large sums withdrawn from bank and building society accounts early in December and then receiving few if any shares are being offered assorted deals by savings institutions wanting the cheques. The National & Provincial Building Society is offering 15 days' extra interest to customers and non-customers who did not receive the full allocation of electricity shares they applied for. Alternatively, they can choose £10 of electricity stamps. To qualify, they should pay their refund cheque back into their existing account or open a N&P Instant Reserve account. The society expects investors to leave the money with them for at least three months.

The Bristol & West Building Society is offering back-dated interest to December 4 on refund cheques deposited in its Treble Rate Bond before December 31. The 90-day account pays 11 per cent on sums of £5,000 to £10,000 and 12 per cent above £25,000. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will pay interest on uncashed cheques returned to the society by January 4.

LINDSAY COOK

More choice for larger houses

TWO buildings and contents policies for properties with a rebuilding value of £150,000 or more and contents valued at more than £35,000 were launched by Wellington Personal Insurances this week.

Both policies are underwritten at Lloyd's. The Gold policy combines buildings and contents, cover with contents automatically insured for up to 50 per cent of the property value. This value is normally assessed by an independent surveyor or building society valuer.

Homes with a rebuilding cost of £150,000 will also have £75,000

worth of contents cover. Jewellery and works of art up to £5,000 are covered with a limit of £2,000 per item.

The Silver policy has similar cover but policyholders can opt to have buildings and contents separate or combined. It also has an excess of £250, while the Gold policy has an excess of £500.

Steven Windich, managing director of Wellington Personal Insurances, said: "People with larger houses don't have the same choices as those with smaller ones and we decided people with more than £35,000 worth of contents weren't being well served."

SARA MCCONNELL

Gold Policy with £250,000 of cover, including accidental damage and £12,000 contents cover with £5,000 for jewellery, would cost £597.50 in Oxford and £732.50 in Richmond.

The policyholders would have to pay the first £500 of any claim.

These premiums assume that the house has no security devices. There are discounts for installing fire extinguishers, smoke detectors or burglar alarms. The company would insist on burglar alarms being installed in high risk areas such as London.

The number of cases of forged notes reported to the Abbey National in the past year rose to 50. The bank added that there was no pattern to suggest that this was typical of Christmas time.

However, it can be worrying to receive a note or notes that are believed to be forged. A young couple in Scotland had a problem with dubious English notes recently.

When Tracy Watt and Malcolm Geddes tried to transfer £200 from the TSB bank to their Abbey National account, the Abbey refused to accept some of the money because the cashier believed the bank notes were forged. Ms Watt said: "We took the money out of the TSB in Aberdeen and first

A spokesman for the Bank of England confirmed this week: "The problem originated in London and the home counties and appears to have spread out thinly from there."

The increase has nothing to do with pre-Christmas spending, said the Bank of England, although notes undergo the heaviest use at this time.

Early the following week a local policeman, after visiting the bank, handed over genuine notes to the couple from the TSB. The "forged" notes were then handed to Scotland Yard.

A TSB (Scotland) spokesman said: "We cannot comment on this case because of customer confidentiality."

He added: "If the customer has a complaint about the service she should speak to the manager and any misunderstanding can be cleared up. If there is still a dispute between the bank and the customer," he said. "The customer has left the premises there is the question of establishing the truth."

The police told us that if they formally took possession of the money I would get a receipt for £80, but that would not be much use to us."

Being stuck with forged notes is a problem. Anyone who tries to pass them on to somebody else could be charged with passing counterfeit money. By law, recipients of forged notes are obliged to report the matter to the police.

The TSB spokesman said that where a customer believed he or she had received forged notes from a bank, it was "very much a matter between the bank and the customer". He added: "Once the customer has left the premises there is the question of establishing the truth."

Meanwhile, Warburg is worried about the effects on private investors of some of the promotional activities of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC). The brokers attacked the association for issuing misleading information and criticised its encouragement of a cut-price dealing service.

Warburg's objections centred on the treatment of "extraordinary" shares: the zero dividend, stepped preference, income and

because the watermark showed the Queen's head instead of Shakespeare's and the fine through the notes was incorrect.

The Bank of England believes that, rather than forgeries, these may simply have been old notes. A spokesman said: "We cannot be sure unless we see the notes but there is a real chance they are making a classic mistake here. On current £20 notes, the watermark is Shakespeare's head. But before November 1984, the Queen's head was in the watermark and some of these notes are still in circulation."

The silver thread changed at the same time. After November 1984 this is a windowed thread looking like silver dashes; on old notes it was embedded in the paper and was thinner. Old notes, which may have been kept under someone's mattress for years, are still valid if they come back into circulation.

Being stuck with forged notes is a problem. Anyone who tries to pass them on to somebody else could be charged with passing counterfeit money. By law, recipients of forged notes are obliged to report the matter to the police.

The TSB spokesman said that where a customer believed he or she had received forged notes from a bank, it was "very much a matter between the bank and the customer". He added: "Once the customer has left the premises there is the question of establishing the truth."

To recognise a forged note it should be compared with one known to be genuine and the following four points, which the Bank of England identifies, should be sought:

□ Feel the paper — it should be crisp and slightly rough in the heavily printed areas. Beware of a note that appears limp, waxy, shiny, or greasy.

□ Quality of the printing — it should be sharp and well defined with no blurred edges.

□ Watermark — a clearly defined portrait with subtle gradations of light and shade should be visible. The watermark on £20 notes is Shakespeare's head except in pre-November 1984 notes, which bear the Queen's head.

□ Silver thread — a bold continuous line embedded in the paper can be seen on the front of the note. In pre-1984 notes the thread is embedded in the paper.

Forged notes are only ever an infinitesimal proportion of the total number of notes in circulation, but usually they are £20 notes.

MARGARET DIBBEN

Trusts advised to link up products

INVESTORS can look forward to new products linked to investment trusts if the trusts follow advice offered by SG Warburg Securities this week in its annual review of the industry.

Packaged with mortgages, pensions or school fees savings plans, investment trusts could attract the private investors who continue to elude them, according to Warburg. The brokers noted that the level of private shareholdings in investment trusts appears to be stuck at about 30 per cent.

In packaged form, they said, the trusts would rank as necessary investments instead of having to compete for any spare cash investors might have after covering essentials.

John Korwin-Szymanowski, investment trust research manager at Warburg, said that investment trusts could be far more tax efficient and flexible than endowment policies. Unlike insurance companies, investment trusts pay no capital gains or income tax on their funds and investors can also escape these taxes by holding the trusts through a personal equity plan (Pep). He suggested that investment trusts should follow the lead of Scottish American Investment Trust, which is running a Pep mortgage in association with the Bank of Scotland. Invest-

ment trusts are especially keen to attract private investors after this year's takeover of Globe, the largest trust, by the British Coal Pension Funds.

"The Globe takeover showed that corporate activity is here to stay," said Mr Korwin-Szymanowski. "Investment trusts see private investors as their saviours from predators."

There are statistics to back this view. Investment trusts become takeover targets when they trade at a wide discount to the net asset value of the underlying investments. Warburg found that investment trusts overall averaged a discount of 16.6 per cent, but that trusts in which private investors held more than a 30 per cent stake averaged a discount of 11.3 per cent, leaving too little potential profit margin for predators.

Meanwhile, Warburg is worried about the effects on private investors of some of the promotional activities of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC). The brokers attacked the association for issuing misleading information and criticised its encouragement of a cut-price dealing service.

Warburg's objections centred on the treatment of "extraordinary" shares: the zero dividend, stepped preference, income and

capital shares and warrants issued by some investment trusts in addition to ordinary shares. Warburg's analysts said that these complicated instruments should be judged on their total return potential and not by looking at net asset values in the normal way.

"We believe it is positively misleading to publish daily net asset values on certain capital shares," said Vanessa Yeo, of Warburg. "How can a layman distinguish between a 16 per cent discount on Edinburgh Investment Trust and a 66 per cent discount on River Plate Capital?"

An uninformed person would not realise that the River Plate figures was artificial because it took no account of prior charges against assets represented by different classes of shares.

She added that although the objective of cut-price dealing in investment trusts was laudable, Sharelink IT, an execution-only service encouraged by the AITC, was only suitable for a few private investors buying generalist investment trust shares.

At the AITC, Julie Jupe said that Warburg had already raised objections privately to the publication of net asset values on several occasions. "We recognise what they are saying, but it would open the floodgates up, if we

started highlighting warnings to look out for different capital structures," said Ms Jupe. "We would be getting into the role of giving advice and we are not authorised to do that."

Ms Jupe rejected Warburg's criticism of the Sharelink service. "It was never intended for the lay person. It was always for the person who knew what they were doing." She added that the association recommended that investors go to suitable, qualified financial advisers.

BARBARA ELLIS

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BARBARA ELLIS

Smile cracks the secret of modest Morse's code

By CAROL LEONARD

If you were to spend an hour or two closeted with Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, without him telling you what he did for a living, you might think that he was the editor of a newspaper such as *The Times*. You would never expect him to be a banker.

He admits that he might well have become a clergyman. And if he had chosen that profession, he would, he suggests with a wry smile, perhaps have become a monk.

But it is the smile that says more about Jeremy Morse than any career. Whichever profession he chose, he would have risen to the top. If he had been a clergyman — with his bold head and tall, slightly stooped frame, he certainly looks the part — he would have been a bishop. But Morse, aged 62, is not only unfailingly modest, he also underplays his hand. Perhaps the two amount to the same thing. Hence that smile.

As a schoolboy at Winchester, he was always top of his class. He became head boy and went on to receive a double first in mods and greats at Oxford.

"The senior classics master would consult him as an authority when he was 17 years old," recalls Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser at Lloyds, who was three years below Morse at school. "He had already acquired formidable authority. He worked hard but he was not a swot. He was not the sort who had to stay up late, taking huge piles of work home at night, emerging red-eyed the next morning. But nor was it effortless."

So it is with his chosen career in banking and his job at Lloyds. Morse works hard, is conscientious, but he is not a workaholic. He has been known to describe his position there as that of "full-time non-executive chairman", since he has little to do with the day to day management of the bank — that is handled by Brian Pitman, the chief executive — and he has outside interests ranging from the theatre to chess and crosswords. The television detective series *Inspector Morse* is inspired by him, with many of the crimes being solved from crossword clues. In *Who's Who* he lists his recreations as poetry, problems and puzzles, coarse gardening and golf. None are typical of the banking profession, normally associated with greyer, more sedentary pursuits.

Morse explains that by coarse gardening he means something that keeps "your hands busy and your mind free, like tree planting. Then if I get a good idea I stop gardening, and push the wheelbarrow about from place to place. I also get ideas when I am shaving." Golf, according to Cholmley Messer, the recently retired chairman of Saxe & Prosser, and another old friend, is the one thing at which Morse is not exceptionally good. "It is the only thing I can think of where he is not very good. But he plays it anyway and enjoys it enormously and that says a lot about the man."

Morse is generally acknowledged as the most intellectual of Britain's four clearing bank chairmen. He is also the least well paid — albeit on £190,000 a year, but

BUSINESS PROFILE

Sir Jeremy Morse

that compares with the £327,000 earned by Sir Kit MacMahon at Midland and Sir John Quinton's £332,000 at Barclays — and the longest serving, having been at the helm since 1977. As a consequence of his and Pitman's combined efforts, Lloyds has slowly but surely risen to the top of the pile. In 1986 the bank's shares were trading on a par with three and a half times earnings, at a time when the other banks were on four and a half. Now it is on seven times earnings and has edged significantly ahead of the competition.

Of all the clearing bank chairmen, Morse is known for having got on least well with Margaret Thatcher. She misinterpreted his manner and thought he was lecturing her when, in fact, all he sought was a stimulating dialogue, an intellectual debate. Morse must have been puzzled and somewhat hurt by her reaction to him. It is generally assumed that it was for this reason that he was not made Governor of the Bank of England, a post he would have enjoyed and, of course, at which he would have excelled. Yet despite this fundamental clash of personalities, and his own admission that he "detests party politics", he admits: "I have probably voted Conservative more times than not." Morse's grandfather, a famous anarchist and politically an independent, was knighted for services to the Conservative party. "I have never voted for the greens. I tend to the centre," he concludes.

"He does very much enjoy conversation and tends to introduce weightier topics than people usually discuss," agrees Richard Wilding, the retired head of the office of arts and libraries, and another old Wykehamist, who once shared digs with Morse. "I can imagine people who do not know him well thinking that he is a bit heavy. In appearance and reputation he is formidable. But once you get to know him, you quickly realise that whoever you are, you can have an enjoyable conversation. He is very good at finding out what subject interests people and steering the conversation that way." Yet despite this love of conversation, his fluency in Latin and Greek and his fascination with words — "I am very fond of speaking, standing up in public. I do not mind if it is an after-dinner speech, a sort of soufflé, or a luncheon lecture. I very rarely have a text, I only use one when it is demanded and I normally refuse anything that requires a text because I have come to believe, profoundly, that written and spoken English are two quite different languages" — he insists that he did not come from an intellectual family.

"I never wanted to stay on in education. I was a very successful examinee. I was always doing well at exams. But I did not have an intellectual background. We never talked at meals as a family and never debated. I wanted to get away to commercial life." He can, however, remember helping his



Musically minded: Sir Jeremy and his wife Belinda enjoy a Victorian drawing room ballad

parents solve *The Times* crossword puzzle when he was seven years old. His interest in commercial life was fuelled by the assumption that he would one day join Steward & Pantson, the family brewing business, in Norwich, founded in the 1780s and into which the Morse family brewery had been merged in the 1830s.

"We had become the main family in it and I would have been the sixth generation in the biggest brewery in East Anglia. I originally joined the banking world to get another skill before I went back into the business. My father had been a lawyer. But in the Sixties Watney's bought it and so I never did go back."

Morse, instead stayed with Glyn, Mills & Co for 11 years. He was seconded to the Bank of England as an executive director in 1965 when he was only aged 36. He was the second youngest Bank of England director ever. A year later, he became alternate governor at the International Monetary Fund for

Britain and then chairman of the IMF's deputies of committee of twenty.

Ask him what he will do next, Morse replies, without hesitation, "retirement... in two or three years time. My father made the classic mistake of working much harder between the ages of 60 and 70 than at any other time and I'm keen to retire much younger than that to do other things." He already has two "retirement jobs", as chairman of the governors, or

rather, warden of Winchester, and chancellor of Bristol University.

He explains this late resurgence of interest in education as "entirely as someone who wants to pass on what he has experienced, whereas your real teacher wants to teach from the beginning, a vocation for life".

Yet even his closest friends agree that he could well have been an academic.

"He is not a typical banker," says Wilding. "He is a surprising

man in many ways. One of the most noticeable ways is that he takes great joy from simple things and not necessarily ones you would associate with someone in his position, like singing Gilbert and Sullivan and Victorian drawing room ballads. He does not have an enormously good voice, but he enjoys singing them."

Morse takes the Underground to work most days from his Chelsea home, simply because he enjoys the experience. "It is so invigorating and ordinary," he says with relish. "I really do enjoy it. I enjoy looking at people's faces and sometimes I try to picture them as they were as a child, especially the ones who look really awful. When we go to picture exhibitions I spend more time looking at faces than paintings."

Yeet this obvious delight in the ordinary, simple things of life could perhaps belie a deep-seated sense of superiority. Morse would be shocked at that suggestion, even though he must have more right to that feeling than most, but it is said to be a common trait among old-Wykehamists. He comes from a wealthy, middle class background and although he enjoys company and loves cocktail parties, he admits that he would always prefer a family party to a party with friends. He sometimes asks and answers his own questions, in logical progression. Your presence is, at times, incidental. He could survive happily on his own, but not to the point of having conservations with himself.

And it is quite possible that despite his often frustrated love of debate, he believes steadfastly that his own views are right and his mind is, therefore, effectively closed to real argument. Or perhaps he is constantly searching for an intellectual equal with whom he can fulfill his ideal of the perfect conversation.

"I do find that my ideas develop best by myself," he says. "They do not develop out of talk." He becomes excited. "Yes, that is very interesting... I've never said that to anybody... I've never thought of that before. I get some very valuable insights from other people but I don't get my creative ideas from them; I get my creative ideas by walking or doing something by myself. I'm really very interested in this..."

He is eager to discuss some of his ideas. The tripolar idea, the idea, sometime ago, that the Conservative party would "have to go back and sweep the middle ground and, therefore, would probably have to drop Mrs Thatcher fairly early on", and the idea that the government faced an economic dilemma, with the north/south divide on the one hand and the need to stamp out inflation in the Southeast on the other. To do the latter would deprive the North of the recovery it had not yet had. In assessing what, in the event, has happened,

we have, he says "greatly reduced the north/south problem but the horror of it is that we have thrown away virtually all the macroeconomic gains that were made in the first five years".

Somewhat formal in his manner, he is deeply religious and passionately concerned about ethics. He once delivered a sermon on ethics in the City at a church in the square mile. He is also an immensely nice man, kind and self-effacing, but not shy. "He is good company, a life-enhancing friend," says Messer. "He has a fantastically good brain, a multi-level brain, working on several different levels at one time, but he never imposes it on you." Nor would he ever lose his temper. "If there were a difference of opinion he would discuss it in a rational manner; he would not get emotionally involved," says Johnson who, after all, works in the same building.

Yet Morse is not unmotional. He talks with great affection about his four children: Richard, aged 31, who works at Kleinwort Benson and helped advise on the privatisation of the electricity companies; Andrew, aged 29, who runs two stationery shops, the City Organiser in Bow Lane, and another in Oxford; Samuel, aged 28, an investment manager with Fidelity; and Isabel, 23, a head hunter. A second daughter died from cancer when she was four years old.

Belinda, his wife of 35 years, is an official London tourist guide, and runs her own business. She specialises in Square Mile walks. On each of their first 26 wedding anniversaries Morse gave her a single flower, each one beginning with a different letter of the alphabet. "Now I am doing the same thing with jewels," he says.

"We will have to be married for 52 years before we get to Zirconium. Men are often romantic in a way that women are not. Women have to be more practical."

While he is buying gemstones, his wife would, he says, describe him as complacent. "I am certainly that. I am very satisfied. I have never wanted to change the world. I have never had that divine discontent. When I take on a new job I quickly spot four or five things I want to change and then I leave it at that. That is a failing."

But he is nothing if not consistent. "I am against being a tyrant at work and an angel at home. I think that's what integrity is all about." He "adores" Shakespeare and quotes Hamlet: "To thine own self be true." He says: "I believe in all that."

Questioned again about his self-sufficiency, he protests anxiously: "I adore my family. I would hate to live alone." But then he paraphrases Cicero: "I am never less alone than when I am alone." "I do feel that," says Morse slowly. For he is never less than honest.

Desperate measures needed to turn the tide of trash

CAPITAL CITY

JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO



Japan: pressure to purchase convenient way to dump rubbish and to gain more elbow room in a congested country. But the government says there is a limit to how much of Japan's shoreline can be built on old tin cans, and that limit is near.

In desperation the Tokyo government has dreamed up a plan to dig up rubbish buried at a Tokyo Bay disposal site, burn it and rebury it. The scheme is supposed to extend the dump's usefulness for between seven and fifteen years. At present rates, the site will be brimming over within a year.

The capital's bureaucrats are also touting the idea of building a huge incinerator in the heart of

and brokers have been assured that the processing plant will be odourless, but the financiers are sniffing at the plan.

One of the more unusual ways of treating the family to a day out recently was the "trash bash" organised by the government in the Tokyo Dome stadium. The aim of the one-day event was to make the capital's 12 million residents think more seriously about rubbish. About 53,000 visitors turned up. They saw a "trash fashion show" featuring recycled clothing, a display of rubbish trucks from around the world and several mock apartment rooms filled with shiny new furniture and appliances plucked from rubbish dumps, a sort of Ideal Home Exhibition for ecologists.

Those not fussy about matching colours can furnish a small apartment from what the residents of Tokyo leave on street corners for rubbish collectors to pick up. Some of the televisions, bicycles, washing machines, and tape decks may only need a new plug or a couple of screws, since the Japanese prefer to buy a replacement rather than bother with repairs. Even so, most work perfectly. Many are only two or three years out of date, too old for many Japanese who are now rich enough to afford the latest camera or hi-fi and whose flats are too small to hold anything that is not in everyday use.

Japanese manufacturers indulge their customers by bringing out new models almost every year. Sometimes retailers throw away last year's stock to make room for new items. The government's challenge seems to be to persuade the Japanese to hold on to usable household goods for longer. Japanese people replace their televisions every six years or so, and most families own at least two or

three televisions.

In that anxious understatement perfected by many Japanese officials, Shunichi Suzuki, Tokyo's governor, admits that the capital's "rubbish is growing at a rate far beyond our expectations".

Mr Suzuki is urging fellow residents of the city to discard less and to recycle more. He is setting an example by using business cards made of recycled paper, maybe not much of an ecological breakthrough in Britain, but a big paper-saver in a country where business cards are exchanged with every greeting.

Tokyo produces about five million tonnes of garbage a year. If things go on as they are, the city will have nearly three million more tonnes of rubbish by 1995

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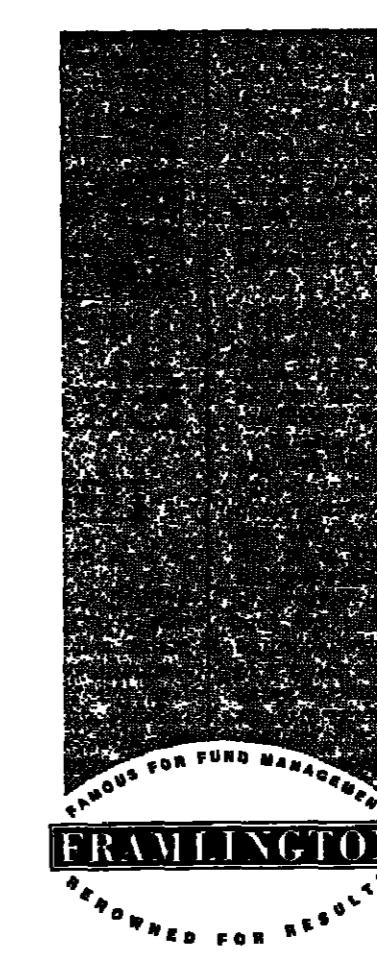
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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 15 1990

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SUMMARY

Bank warns of rise in forgeries

BANK customers should check their change for forged notes after a warning from the Bank of England that the circulation of counterfeits has increased over the past few months.

Two Weekend Money readers found themselves stuck with four £20 notes, which the Abbey National refused to accept, claiming they were forgeries. Use our checklist to ensure the cash you are carrying is clean Page 42

Morse code



The understated and intellectual Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, quotes Cicero and Shakespeare but still takes the Underground from Chelsea every morning because he enjoys the experience of looking at the faces of other commuters. He talks to Carol Leonard Page 43

Power profit

Electricity customers who bought £100 of shares in each of the 12 regional power companies have made themselves a tidy profit for Christmas despite a vast scaling down of applications following the most popular privatisation to date. Families of four buying £4,800 of shares found they were worth £7,228 at the end of dealing on the first day Page 42

Black mark

I'm sorry but Mr Holmes can do joined-up writing

A badly forged signature was no bar to a Girobank Visa card thief who withdrew £750 from a reader's account without the cashier demanding any proof of identity. Other letters include a call for a personal receipt tax to assist in creating a classless society, and a plea for insurance companies not to rob Peter to pay Paul in a vain attempt to keep bonus levels up when assets are falling Page 41

Churning fears

Life companies fear that former clients of Levitt Group, the failed financial services group, may be persuaded unwisely by other salesmen to cash in their policies and take out new ones even though they may not even recoup what they have paid. The liquidators called in to unravel Levitt's affairs say that the majority of investors in the group should not lose money if they wrote cheques for contributions directly to insurance companies. Anyone worried that a policy may not be valid can check by contacting their insurance company direct Page 40

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Speak to Garry Weston about wheeler-dealing and he'll turn the conversation to Wagon Wheels. "I like to win," says the Canadian billionaire, "but my sort of winning comes through the development of a new product. That is what gives the thrill; more than any takeover deal."

Fiona Walsh talks to one of the world's richest men in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Seasonal investment offers long-term returns

STEPHEN MARKSON

A cruel streak is needed when choosing toys that children cannot play with, as Barbara Ellis discovered

THE season of spending on children is enough to turn a parent's mind towards gifts of more lasting value.

But John Baddeley, of Sotheby's collectors' department, says it takes a streak of cruelty to be a good investor in toys. Bears are not for hugging and model cars have to stay in pristine condition in their original boxes to hold their value.

Collectors are after unusual, short runs, such as the Mickey Mouse toys produced in the Thirties by manufacturers other than Disney. A rare Mickey Mouse can fetch up to £3,000, but only if it is in mint condition with the original box. Collectors are only just becoming interested in the Sixties.

Mr Baddeley says that the enormous increase in toy prices over the past 20 years has been in pre-1912 German tinplate, trains, boats and Wright brothers aeroplanes, made by Bing, Carrere or Marklin. Expensive when first issued, 20 years ago this type of toy was selling for about £10,000 but can now fetch anything up to £100,000.

Teddy bears have been one of the worst features of the toy market lately. In the past five years they have reached as much as £55,000, only subsequently to drop back. A bear bought for £10,000 18 months ago might be worth no more than £5,000 today. Without the back-up serious collectors need in the form of reference works or museum exhibi-

tions, people just went mad for quality teddies, says Mr Baddeley.

Steffi, the top quality name in bears, is still in business, selling a

modern version of its classic bear,

with a gold button in one ear.

However, Mr Baddeley would not recommend buying a new bear.

Battery-operated robots and television and film tie-ins, such as James Bond merchandise, are areas where a major collection can still be formed for less than £25,000. "In any other field, that is peanuts," says Mr Baddeley.

He is keen to encourage young collectors. Dinky toys, a favourite in Britain, can still be bought for a few pounds, although some models are worth hundreds. Some of the vehicles that were least popular when issued have become the most sought after.

Starting a child on the way to his or her own collection of family silver may seem an attractive idea,

but the investment evidence is mixed. Gains at the top end of the market have sometimes been

spectacular.

British Rail's pension fund turned £7,700 into £22,500 in the 11 years between 1976 and 1987 by buying and selling a pair of Charles II silver caskets. These were part of a collection of fine antique silver bought for less than £250,000 during the Seventies and sold for £1.3 million in 1987.

But lower down the scale, prices have risen much more slowly or have stayed constant.

Titus Kendall, of Spink & Son, the dealer, said that the price of



Continuing good prospects for claret: John Armit recommends laying down some Bordeaux as world demand for the wine grows

George III silver snuffboxes he would choose as a starter investment had been between £300 and £400 for several years. "This is an alternative investment. You have got to enjoy and like the things you buy. Your return should be the enjoyment and if you do not get that you should not bother. The best pieces for investment are always things people use," he says.

Adam Brett-Smith, of Corney & Barrow, the wine merchants, says he puts down a case of vintage port each year for a godchild, paying between £150 and £200 a case of late for a 1985 Dow. He suggests some rules for buying

STEPHEN MARKSON

port or claret (Bordeaux), the main investment wines, for children:

- Only buy wines from the best vintages on expert advice.
- Do not borrow to buy wine.
- Do not speculate or rely on wine for a return on an investment.

Be patient — the minimum time for an investment wine is five years, with the best returns in the sixth to tenth years.

If there were to be a repeat of the worldwide slump of the early Seventies, when Bordeaux prices crashed, Mr Brett-Smith says investors should sit out the slump calmly as prices will bounce back eventually.

"The object of the exercise is to drink the stuff after all," he says. No capital gains tax is charged on wine, because the Inland Revenue classes it as a wasting asset.

Mr Brett-Smith chose Chateau Haut Brion (first growth), Chateau

Montrose and Chateau Petrus (second growth) as the best of five cases of 20 wines the firm usually sells to investors. Mr Armit, after whom the company is named, envisages continuing good prospects for Bordeaux, since world demand is growing and the top 25 chateaux produce no more than about 430,000 cases a year.

At the conventional end of the investment market, unit trusts offer a simple way into share investments on behalf of children.

Units are usually bought in the name of an adult for the account of the child and transferred when the child is aged 18.

As unit trusts invest in a spread of shares they should be less risky than an investment in a single privatisation issue.

In the past three years, most unit trusts have performed worse than building society high interest accounts. But the record over the longer term is more encouraging.

Old comics are no laughing matter for serious collectors



Marvellous gain: Henry Gewanter with his first edition Captain Marvel comic worth £5,000

Simple gift earns maximum interest with young savers

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THERE is one generous Christmas present that almost every parent can give their children without it costing them a penny. Next time they visit the bank or building society where their children have savings accounts they should register them for gross payment of interest.

The majority of children are non-taxpayers and will be able to earn 33 per cent more interest on their savings than basic rate taxpayers from April 6, as long as their parents act in the next few months. Otherwise, children could lose out on millions of pounds of interest.

The Halifax Building Society has written to the parents of 1.25 million children with savings accounts, explaining how children can benefit from the scrapping of composite rate tax.

The society urges parents of children with a total annual income of less than £3,005, where no more than £100 is interest earned on money given to the children by the parents, to complete and sign a registration form available from all banks, building societies and post offices.

Parents must sign for children under 16, confirming that they are eligible to receive interest with no

gross. The latter is not planning to write to parents but has briefed staff in its branches to alert parents to the need to sign declarations for their children.

Abbey National's Instant Saver account pays £6.23 on £100 net of tax and £8.30 when paid gross. It is placing a leaflet in all branches from January 2, explaining who is eligible for interest to be paid gross.

If parents do not make the required declaration for their children before a bank or building society pays interest on the children's account, they will be allowed by some institutions to register retrospectively and have the tax deducted credited to the account.

Failing that, a child will have to wait until April 6, 1992, when a parent or guardian will have to apply for a refund of tax paid on the savings account. The Inland Revenue is setting up 20 new offices to deal with applications for refunds.

The Revenue estimates that 15 million savers will be able to escape paying tax from April 6. Of these, 3.25 million are children. It will launch its first television campaign in the new year to highlight the need to apply for interest to be paid gross.

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To: IFA Promotion Limited, Unit 3, Air Citi Business Centre, Colindale Lane, London NW9 6BW.

Please send me a list of ten independent financial advisers, convenient to my home or work address, below.

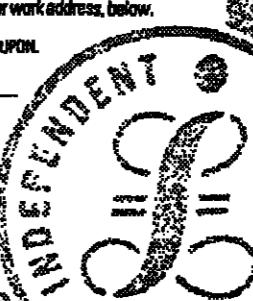
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